■Super /K1

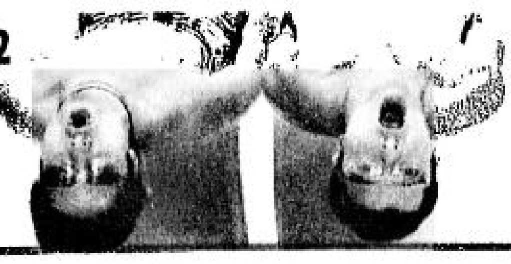
Tonyboy Cojuangco throws a beach party

■Sports / A25

RP cagers in SEABA final

■Super / H2

23 questions for Piolo and Jericho



■Business/ B1

Remittances from OFWs up 9.8% in Feb.

■ Elan / C7

Manila society icon turns crusader

Ad agency protests Ping use of 'Coke ko to!' beat

NALILITO NALILITO SA COKE ITO

By Norman Bordadora

THEY LOVED it when every student, secretary or nun clapped and chanted "pabilis nang pabilis/ Coke ko to!" on any table they could pound with their fists.

AD AGENCY/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Promdi concedes Roco can't win, holds secret vote

By Jhunnex Napallacan, Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

CEBU CITY—Promdi chair Emilio "Lito" Osmeña yesterday conducted a secret vote among top party officials to determine whom to support for president.

He said that while he would never abandon

PROMDI/ A10

2 groups dump 'Da King'

FPJ, Lacson to talk unity on Estrada birthday

By Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora

THE UNITY of the opposition may just be the birthday gift that deposed President Joseph Estrada will receive from his two protégés who are now political rivals, actor Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

The two opposition presidential candidates appeared set to meet on Monday, the birthday of Estrada, who had previously told Lacson that the senator would get his support only if Poe would decide not to seek the top post.

The actor is a bosom friend of Estrada's, and the senator his former fair-haired boy.

Poe yesterday said in a chance interview with reporters in Iba, Zambales, that he and Lacson were to meet soon. This meeting is to be a follow-up to their dialogue last Easter Sunday.

The standard-bearer of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino said he had not received notice on the actual date of the meeting. But when told that Lacson had reportedly said it would be on Monday, he replied that if that was the case, then Monday it was.

What Lacson actually said was that he didn't have an out-of-town sortie scheduled on Monday. "If [Poe] will be in Metro Manila on Monday, there might be a chance that we'll talk," he said.

Poe acknowledged that his next meeting with Lacson would

FPJ, LACSON/ A10

ERIK ARAZAS

TIME TO FIESTA: Aliwan Fiesta 2004 ongoing until today in Star City at the CCP complex is considered the grandest, drawing the best artists, craftsmen and performers from all 16 regions of the country, including children of the Tribu Tiduray from Maguindanao (in photo) to vie for close to P3 million worth of cash prizes in three contests—dance and float competitions and a beauty pageant. Today's festivities include street dancing.

Muslim groups defect to Ping's side

By Christian V. Esguerra and Jeffrey M. Tupas
PDI Mindanao Bureau

IS THE tsunami (tidal wave) named Fernando Poe Jr. losing its wallop?

The question arose yesterday after two groups of supporters of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) standard-bearer, both representing the Mindanao region, announced their defection from his camp.

Vote-rich Mindanao had been considered a bastion of support for Poe.

The defections followed an opinion survey by Pulse Asia, saying Poe had further slipped in voter approval ratings and was now trailing President Macapagal-Arroyo by three points.

The two groups said they were switching over to the camp of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Gerald Dequina, a campaign leader of Lacson, told the INQUIRER that the so-called Muslims for FPJ group had expressed dismay at Poe's continuing failure to spell out a clear platform of government, with just about three weeks to go before the May 10 elections.

The group had previously claimed it could deliver a million votes to Poe. Now it calls itself "Muslims for Ping."

Dequina quoted one of the group's leaders, Alan Dimaporo,

2 GROUPS/ A10

AT LARGE

Her 'first love' tried to kill her

By Rina Jimenez-David

COMMENTARY

HER HUSBAND approached her with a gun in his hand. In a "hushed angry tone," he told her: *"P----- i-mo!* Who the hell do you think you are?" Then he wrapped his left arm around her, raised the pistol to her abdomen, and pulled the trigger. Bleeding, she pleaded with one of her husband's bodyguards, a certain Castillo, to rush her to the hospital, and as they staggered out of the condominium unit her husband yelled: *"P----- i-mo,* Castillo! *Mamili ka, pera ko o buhay niya?* (Choose—my money or her life)" Castillo then shouted back: *"Buhay po, sir* (Life, sir)."

Rushed to the Makati Medical Center, Melissa Mercado Martel underwent an emergency operation and remained in the intensive care unit for a month, after which she remained hospitalized for two-and-a-half more months. The day she was discharged from the ICU, she says her husband's relatives and a lawyer made her sign an affidavit stating that the shooting was an "accident" and that her husband had nothing to do with it. If she refused to sign, Melissa now says she was told, the Martels would not pay her medical and hospitalization bills.

Last April 1, Melissa filed suit with the city prosecutor of Makati accusing her husband Robert Puyat Martel, better known to

HER/ A15

CHERYL DIAZ MEYER: Filipinos are making breakthroughs abroad.
REUTERS

Lessons from a Pinay Pulitzer Prize winner

By Gil Francis Arevalo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—She sneaked into this city unnoticed on Tuesday and left yesterday with only close relatives knowing about it.

But Pulitzer Prize winner for photography Cheryl Diaz Meyer did not go without imparting a message to Filipinos in an exclusive talk with the INQUIRER: Have a dream and pursue it at all costs.

"It really feels great to win this award, but it's not actually winning

LESSONS/ A8

PCSO chief De Leon flown to Makati Med

By Margaux Ortiz and Frank Cimatu, Donna Demetillo and Vincent Cabreza, *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

THE CONDITION of Ma. Livia "Honey Girl" de Leon, the chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, is reported to have greatly improved following an operation for a ruptured aneurysm that lasted eight hours in Baguio City on Thursday.

De Leon was airlifted by Lear jet to the Villamor Air Base at 1 p.m. yesterday and taken straight to the Makati Medical Center's intensive care unit.

But Dr. Manuel Factora, chief of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) where De Leon underwent the operation on Thursday, said the PCSO chief was not yet out of danger.

Factora said De Leon needed to undergo further tests, which the BGHMC could not provide.

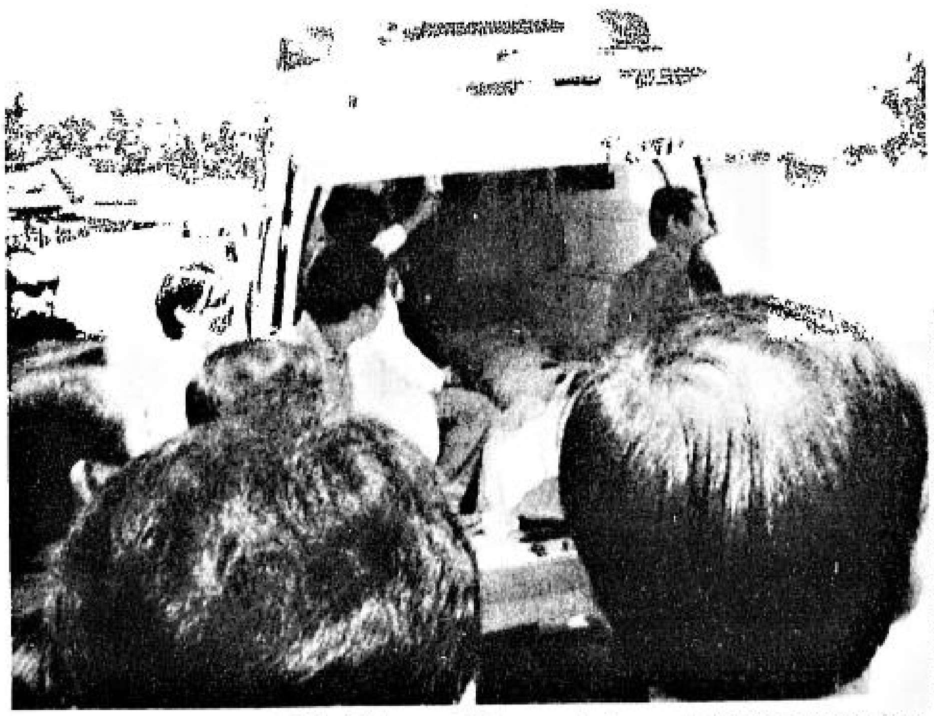
"We talked about it all night, and we had to be assured first [by De Leon's relatives] that she would be flown to Manila and the hospital in under an hour. Otherwise, we could not guarantee her safety," Factora told the INQUIRER.

She has been responding well to treatment and her vital signs had stabilized, Dr. Bienvenido Aldanese, the head of the MMC's neurosurgery department, said at a press conference yesterday.

"Although she is still in a semi-conscious state, she has been moving her arms and feet," Aldanese said.

Aldanese said De Leon, who suffered a ruptured cerebral aneurysm while con-

PCSO/ A10



TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

MEDICAL bulletin: PCSO Chair Honeygirl Singson-de Leon, greatly improved after an 8-hour operation, is airlifted on a Lear jet from the Loakan airport in Baguio City.

Robot offers to testify vs Misuari, Abu Sayyaf

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

STA. ROSA, Laguna—In a bid to prove that he is innocent of rebellion and kidnapping charges, detained Abu Sayyaf Group leader Galib Andang (aka Kumander Robot) yesterday offered to turn state witness against another jailed Muslim leader, Nur Misuari, and his former comrades in the bandit gang.

Andang said he was just a mere "facilitator" for the kidnap victims of the Abu Sayyaf and had never taken part in the aborted rebellion that Misuari and his faction of the Moro National Liberation Front staged in 2001.

He claimed that his role in the Abu Sayyaf kidnap operations was "to feed and guard the hostages and take part in the negotiations."

Andang, who was captured after he was wounded in an encounter with the military in Basilan in December 2003, said his main interest in turning state witness was to help the government in subduing terrorism in Mindanao and easing the tensions between Muslim separatists and the military.

He claimed to have sent surrender feelers to President Macapagal-Arroyo even before his capture.

Asked how he would be helping the government, he said: "That's our secret."

Andang was arraigned here yesterday in pre-trial proceedings on the rebellion charges against him and Misuari. He pleaded not guilty to the charge of participating in the rebellion staged by the Misuari faction of the MNLF in Jolo, Sulu, on Nov. 19, 2001.

Before he joined the Abu Sayyaf, Andang was a leader of the lost command of the MNLF, the mainstream Muslim secessionist group which concluded a peace agreement with the government in 1996.

ROBOT/ A8

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COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/04/17/04

I'll share power, vows Gloria

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

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The President announced this in her speech at the 113th foundation celebration of the Philippine Bar Association at the Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati City. It was made on the day opposition candidates Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson confirmed that they were set to hold unity talks again.

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By Delfin T. Mallari, Marlon Ramos and Donna Virola
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Pursuit operations

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"Where were they when Mayor Aranas and our soldiers were abducted? Don't military and government men have human rights? None of them even lifted a finger against the NPA," Mesa said.

As of press time, the militant group and the government soldiers were still in a standoff with neither group backing down.

Private armies

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The list includes at least three governors, a former governor, two vice governors, five mayors, an ex-mayor, a vice mayor and a congressman, according to the PNP report.

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In a related development, Sandiganbayan justices said they would visit Estrada's rest house Tuesday so they could be guided in their decision on whether or not to allow him to stay at his 15-hectare home 100 meters from Camp Capinpin under what could be virtual house arrest.

Estrada lawyer Jose Flaminiano said the issue was not a matter of law "as there is yet no law on house arrest, but of charity and reason."

Special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio had objected to the request, including Estrada's recent motion to spend his birthday at his rest house.

Villa-Ignacio noted that so far, the anti-graft court had granted Estrada's wish to go to the US for an operation on his arthritic knees, to visit his ailing mother on several occasions, and to hold a three-day spiritual retreat at his rest house.

Granting Estrada's wish for a "purely social activity" could be perceived as special treatment, he said. *With Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

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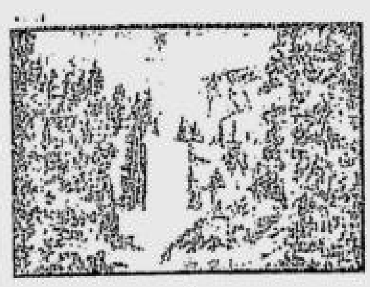

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Estrada lawyer Jose Flaminiano said the issue was not a matter of law "as there is yet no law on house arrest, but of charity and reason."

Special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio had objected to the request, including Estrada's recent motion to spend his birthday at his rest house.

Villa-Ignacio noted that so far, the anti-graft court had granted Estrada's wish to go to the US for an operation on his arthritic knees, to visit his ailing mother on several occasions, and to hold a three-day spiritual retreat at his rest house.

Granting Estrada's wish for "purely social activity" could be perceived as special treatment, he said. *With Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

GMA: RP to stand by US in Iraq

By Jerome Aning, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Cynthia D. Balana,

THE PHILIPPINES would stand by its international commitment to maintain the Filipino military contingent in Iraq, but would ensure that they were safe.

"We will stand by our international commitments and we will make sure our nationals are safe," President Macapagal-Arroyo said in a statement.

For the first time this week, the President had hinted that the Philippines might withdraw troops from Iraq if security there deteriorated further.

On Thursday, the government suspended the scheduled deployment of more forces to Iraq while ordering those already in the country to stay in their base. It also drafted emergency plans to evacuate Filipino civilians if necessary.

"We want a 'zero-casualty' goal for Filipino civilians and peacekeepers as tension continuously escalates in Iraq," she said in a statement.

Last year, the Philippines deployed 96 soldiers, police and humanitarian workers to Iraq.

Iraq Team

Ms Macapagal on Thursday ordered the creation of an Iraq Team to prepare contingency plans for the evacuation of an estimated 3,000 Filipinos workers in Iraq and the 53 members of the Philippine Humanitarian Contingent should violence escalate and threaten their lives.

Military spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said the President's decision to suspend reinforcements on Thursday held back the deployment of 27 soldiers and 18 policemen to replace those whose tour of duty in Iraq had ended.

But a diplomat from the Department of Foreign Affairs said the withdrawal of Filipino troops was farfetched. "Under American pressure, she would never order an evacuation," the diplomat said.

The diplomat, who declined to be named, said Ms Macapagal could not afford to displease Washington which considers the Philippines a major non-NATO ally and partner in its global war against terror.

The Filipino public was largely opposed to Ms Macapagal's decision to send troops to the war-torn country.

Villar urged pullout

Senate foreign relations committee chair Manuel Villar had urged the President to order a pullout.

"We should not play with the lives of our soldiers and police personnel," he said.

Villar earlier said that some of Ms Macapagal's advisers might be telling her not to pull the troops out because she could stand to lose US support for her presidential bid.

But the diplomat said Manila could find it difficult to evacuate Filipino civilians in Iraq due to insufficient funds and lack of logistics for their repatriation.

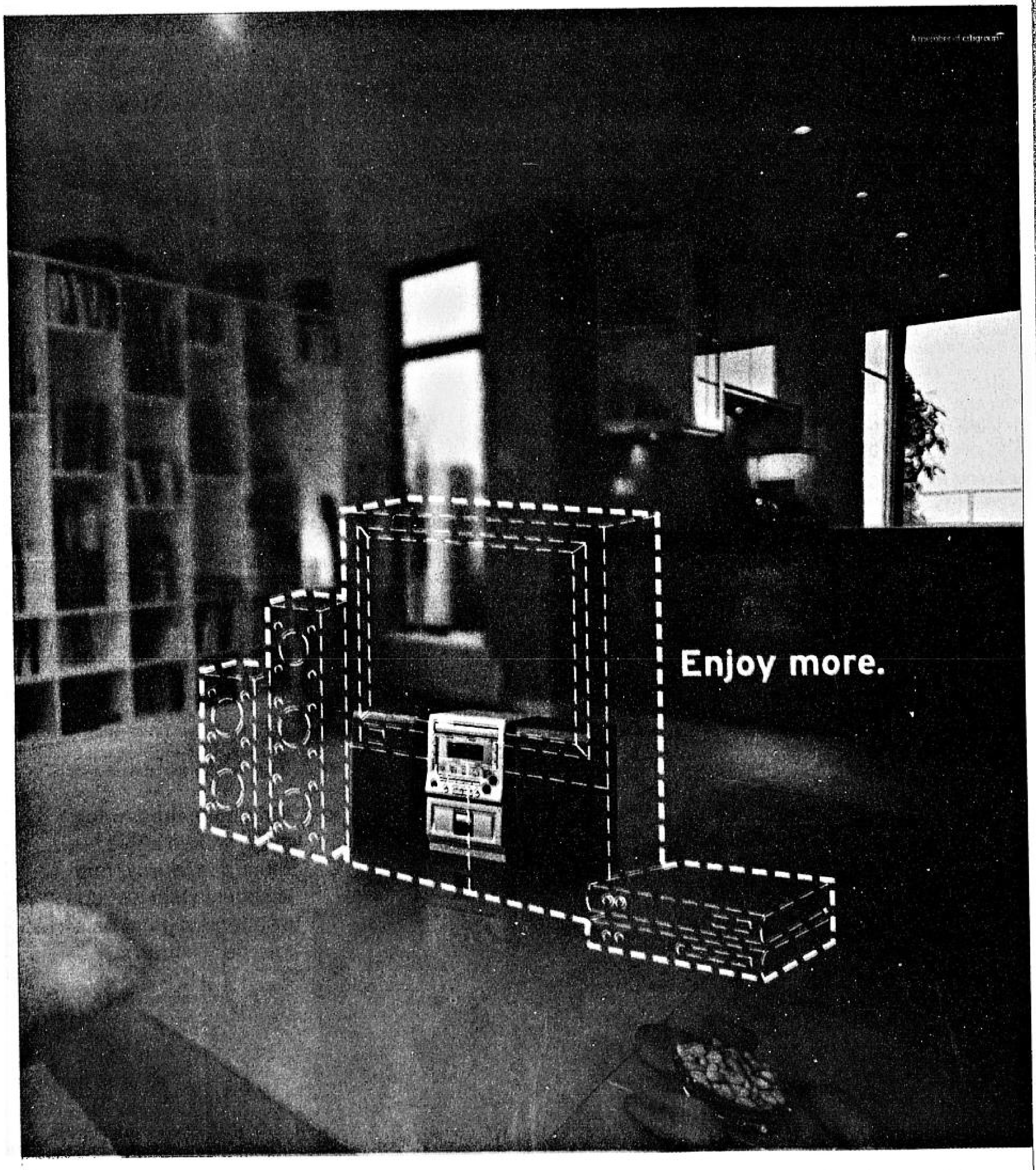
Ms Macapagal had designated Ambassador Roy Cimatu of the Middle East Preparedness Team and officials of the DFA to set up the Iraq Team .

Relatives of Filipinos working or deployed in Iraq can call up the DFA 24-hour hotline at 834-4000 or 8343333.

'Doublespeak'

But opposition solons described Ms Macapagal's "exit plan" as nothing but "bureaucratic doublespeak" which would cause her defeat in the May election.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos and Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada said the President's candidacy would be affected if any of the 98-man contingent or 3,000 Filipino overseas workers get killed in Iraq. ***With Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, Christine O. Avendaño, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., AFP***



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'YEAR OF RICE' CELEBRATION / LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN

National Rice Festival launches 'Hunger-Free Philippines' program

UN Millennium Goals seek halving of global hunger by 2015. Arroyo Administration is bent on achieving rice self-sufficiency by 2005—through hybrid-seeds that double harvests.

APRIL IS A GOOD MONTH in the Philippine countryside. It sees the first of the dry-season rice harvests. With the crop brought in, farm-folk are in a holiday mood; and rural festivals explode all over the archipelago in May and June.

This season, these local fiestas are to be set off by a National Rice Festival—to be held on Saturday, April 17, in Lingayen, Pangasinan. Part of the country's observance of the international 'Year of Rice,' the Festival also launches the "Hunger-Free Philippines" project of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Philippine Government.

Before an assembly of rice farmers, seed growers, millers, rice traders and local officials, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will harvest ceremonially a stand of hybrid-seed palay, assisted by FAO's Philippine Representative, Kariyan Mei.

Another highlight of the Festival is the distribution of '*Unlad-Ani* Awards' to 9 provinces and 47 municipalities which met their targets for expanding farm-areas planted to the new rice varieties.

Hybrid—or 'Gloria'—rice seeds are the genetic tools of the Hunger-Free Philippines project. Having shown their capability, in intensive field trials, to double the harvests of the most enterprising farmers, the new seeds promise both rice self-sufficiency for the country and higher incomes for rural Filipinos.

A HUNGER-FREE PHILIPPINES

The vision of a hunger-free Philippines comes from the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, which embody the commitment of world leaders to *halve* global hunger and poverty by 2015. President Arroyo is determined to exceed these set goals—by achieving the country's self-sufficiency in the basic cereal by 2005.

For her Cabinet departments, she has laid down a strategic vision. It is that of a modern, smallholder agriculture set in a diversified rural economy that is dynamic, technologically-advanced, and internationally competitive.

Toward this vision, rice sufficiency is the first decisive step. For the urban poor, for landless rural workers, and even for peasants—who are themselves net buyers of food—it will lift everyday anxieties about where the next meal is coming from.

President Gloria's strategic vision is of a modern, smallholder agriculture set in a technologically-adept rural economy.

Both the President and her Agriculture Secretary, Luis P. Lorenzo Jr., are keenly aware of the project's urgency. Owing to the rapid increase in population, the global demand for rice will rise to about 880 million metric tons in 2025. By then, the archipelago should be producing 65% more rice than it is does now—if it is to feed the 107 million people it will have by then.

Until the 1850s, the Philippines had actually exported rice to China—mostly through Currimao in Ilocos Norte, Salomague in Ilocos Sur, and Sual in Pangasinan. But, over the years, agricultural productivity had stagnated and food production lagged behind population growth. In a normal year, the country now imports 600,000 metric tons—to meet the shortfall in its current consumption of some 14.5 million metric tons.

HAPPY FARMERS BRING IN THE PALAY CROP ON THE PANGASINAN PLAIN.

THE GLORIA RICE PROGRAM

The Department of Agriculture's *Ginintuang Masaganang Ani* Rice Program seeks to attain food security primarily through a well-crafted and wholistic rice production program.

To back up its hybrid-rice technology, the Arroyo Administration has laid down a network of scientists and technologists, model farms and field schools, seed and fertilizer subsidies, and micro-credit schemes. It has also been investing in farm-to market roads and other rural infrastructure.

In water-harvesting technologies, the Administration is focusing on developing small-scale irrigation facilities, rainwater-impounding systems, shallow tubewells, and low-lift pumps that farmers themselves can directly control.

Meanwhile the National Food Authority has set up a nation-wide chain of buying stations, as well as farm machines and post-harvest facilities that farmer cooperatives could rent.

FAO is taking part in the Hunger-Free Philippines project under its Technical Cooperation Programme. Initially FAO experts will compile—for the country to adopt and apply—the best practices from successful experiences in other rice-growing countries with comparable resource endowments. FAO will also help seek international support for the country's hunger-reduction programs.

Last February, FAO had awarded President Arroyo its prestigious *Ceres Award*—named after the Roman goddess of farming—for her agricultural modernization program, which FAO expects will ease Philippine poverty in large measure.

AGRICULTURE POWERS GROWTH

Already the Gloria Rice Program has stimulated agricultural production. Over 2001-03, agriculture powered economic growth. Accounting for 20% of total domestic product, agriculture made up for the recession in foreign trade and industrial production.

In 2003, the sector grew by 3.8%—fisheries expanding by 7.5%; crops by 3%; and animal production by 3.0%.

The palay harvest of 2002—which reached 13.50 million metric tons—was the highest in the country's history. It made the country 90% self-sufficient. The 2003 crop should make up 94% of all our needs. The target for 2004 is 97%-100% self-sufficiency.

PHILRICE SCIENTIST IN MUÑOZ LABORATORY.

Hybrid-rice technology was first developed in China—three fifths of whose 33 million hectares of riceland are already planted to the new seeds. DA's research institute, *PhilRice*, adapted the technology to national conditions. The technology exploits the concept of 'hybrid vigor'—which scientists have also applied to new varieties of corn.

PRESIDENT ARROYO HELPS TRANSPLANT HYBRID-RICE CROP AT THE PHILRICE MODEL FARM IN NUEVA ECIJA.

Today's high-yielding varieties (HYVs) are self-pollinated pure lines. Hybrid seeds are produced by cross-pollinating two or more genetically different lines, to combine their best characteristics. Hybrid seeds have surpassed the yields of the best HYVs nationwide by 15-30%.

Field trials began in 1998, using the hybrid seed *Mestizo*—developed by the Philippine Rice Research Institute in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija—averaged an *additional* 1,272 kg (25 cavans) of palay a hectare. Farmers in Cagayan and Bohol harvested the highest yields—12 tons (240 cavans) a hectare. The national average is some 60 cavans.

HYBRID RICE REVOLUTION

President Arroyo ordered the Hybrid Rice Commercialization Program in 2003—as the farming component of her "Million Jobs Program' managed by then Presidential Adviser Lorenzo. Part of the new seed-technology's attraction is that it is more labor-intensive than the old one. Most of the inbred rices are simply broadcast on the paddies. Mestizo seedlings must be transplanted from seed beds, much as the traditional rices used to be.

Filipino scientists have so far produced three varieties of the Mestizo hybrid. (The line is named *not* after its cross-bred nature but after a river that flows into the Cagayan Valley.) The Region II provinces have become our hybrid-rice country. In the 2003 wet season, some 3,500 Cagayan Valley farmers planted 6,012 hectares to the crop. Yields averaged 6.15 tons (123 cavans) a hectare.

THE UNLAD-ANI AWARDS

As an incentive system for local governments to promote and accelerate the commercialization of hybrid rice, President Arroyo is giving out the first *Unlad-Ani* Awards at the Urdaneta festival.

PhilRice's dream rice plant will be short, thick and sturdy. And it should yield 15 tons, or 300 cavans of palay, for every hectare.

These are cash awards given in the care of provincial or municipal agriculturists. They are to be used for rice-related projects in provinces or towns that meet at least 100% of their hybrid-rice hectarage target for the November 2003-March 2004 planting season. The cash awards are P500,000 for a province and P150,000 for a municipality.

Out of the 33 provinces and 207 municipalities that vied for the awards, 9 provinces and 47 municipalities won prizes. Six of the winning towns planted more than 1,000 hectares to hybrid rice.

Looking to the future, PhilRice sees biotechnology as the genetic means to make the country's rice-research program globally competitive. PhilRice has begun DNA fingerprinting specific rices, mapping genes resistant to specific rice pests, and transforming elite cultivars by adding resistant genes to them.

In fact PhilRice scientists have begun designing a new rice plant—one that will be stable, higher-yielding, and pest-resistant. Their 'dream rice plant'—designed for direct seeding on irrigated lowland eco-systems—will be short, thick, and sturdy. It should yield 15 tons (300 cavans). DA's Cito Lorenzo says he can't wait to see PhilRice's designer rice come off the drawing boards into the fields of the archipelago.

PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL WINNERS OF 2004 'UNLAD ANI' AWARDS

CORDILLERA
KALINGA PROVINCE
Tabuk Municipality

REGION I
Rosales, *Pangasinan*
Vintar, *Ilocos Norte*

REGION II
CAGAYAN PROVINCE
Baggao Municipality
Lallo Municipality
Solana Municipality

N. VISCAYA PROVINCE

ISABELA PROVINCE
D. Albano Municipality
Roxas Municipality
Cauayan Municipality

REGION III
N. ECIJA PROVINCE
Cabanatuan City
Jaen Municipality
San Antonio Municipality

Floridablanca, *Pampanga*

Gerona, *Tarlac*
Victoria, *Tarlac*
Pura, *Tarlac*

REGION IV-A
Siniloan, *Laguna*
Pila, *Laguna*
Mabitac, *Laguna*

REGION IV-B
OCCIDENTAL MINDORO
Sablayan Municipality
Calintaan Municipality
Rizal Municipality
Bansud, *Or. Mindoro*

REGION V
CAMARINES SUR
San Jose Municipality

ALBAY
Ligao City

REGION VII
Carmen, *Bohol*
San Miguel, *Bohol*
Pilar, *Bohol*

REGION VIII
Santa Fe, *Leyte*

REGION IX
Molave, *Zambo. Sur*
Mahayag, *Zambo. Sur*
Tambulig, *Zambo. Sur*
Titay, *Zambo. Sibugay*

REGION X
Malaybalay, *Bukidnon*

REGION XI
Hagonoy, *Davao del Sur*
Asuncion, *Davao del Norte*
Dujali, *Davao del Norte*

REGION XII
Kabacan, *Cotabato*
Matalam, *Cotabato*
Palimbang, *S. Kudarat*

CARAGA
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Sn Francisco Municipality
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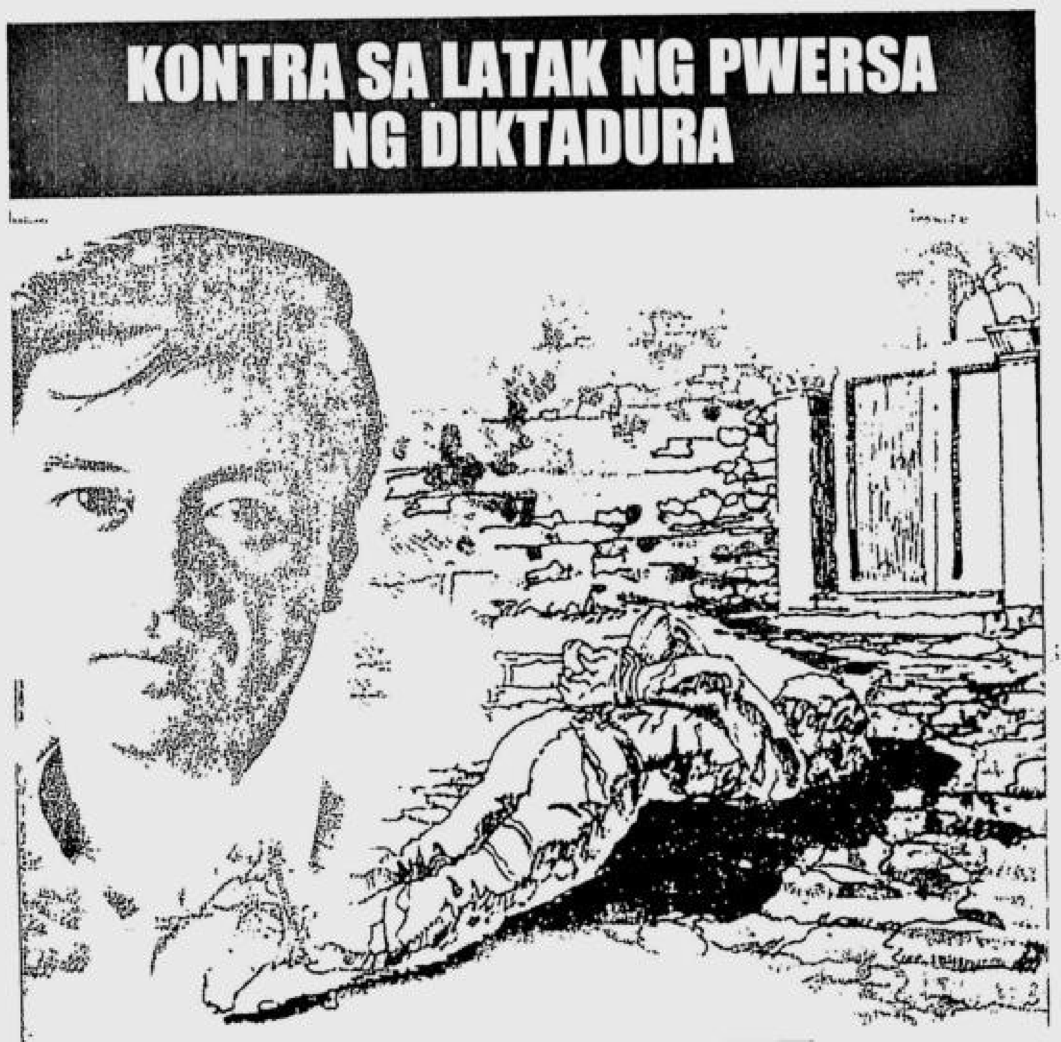


KONTRA SA LATAK NG PWERSA NG DIKTADURA

ALVAREZ
KAKAMPI NG MGA API

Noong 1974, ang luray-luray na katawan ni Marsman Alvarez, kapatid ni Heherson, ay itinapon sa harap ng isang simbahan sa Isabela. Inukit ang kanyang mga mata. Dinurog ang kanyang bungo at panga. Binunot ang dila, ngipin at kuko. Sa libing ni Marsman, inatake sa puso at namatay din ang ama ni Alvarez. Ang kanyang ina at isa pang kapatid ay halos nasiraan ng bait. Ang walang awang pagpaslang ay kabayaran ng walang takot na paglaban ni Heherson Alvarez sa diktadura at mga TRAPO na kasabwat sa paggahasa ng bayan.

33 TAON NG PANININDIGAN SA PRINSIPYO.

KAKAMPI NG KALAYAAN
- Isa sa 10 Outstanding Con-Con Delegates, 1971; Isa sa hindi pumirma sa Marcos constitution.
- Kontra Marcos: Namuno ng Ninoy Aquino Movement na nagbunyag ng nakaw na yaman at walang tigil na tumutol sa US aid sa diktadura.
- Pinarangalan ng United Nations Day Human Rights Award ng Fund for Free Expression, New York.

MAKATAONG MAMBABATAS
Bilang Senador ng 12 taon:
- Ama ng Comprehensive Agrarian Reform at Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
- Panday ng Nursing Act, National Commission on Culture and the Arts at Department of Energy, at ang Eid'l Fitri para sa mga kapatid na muslim.
- Utak ng Clean Air Act, Integrated Protected Areas System at Solid Waste Management.
- Sponsor ng ratification ng ILO convention Rights of Migrant Workers at Indigenous Peoples.

Bilang Kongresista:
- Isinulong ang IMPEACHMENT laban kay ERAP.
- Sponsor ng mga batas para sa kababaihan, kabataan at may kapansanan.

KAKAMPI NG KALIKASAN
Bilang DENR Secretary:
- Tagapagtanggol ng maliliit na mga minero ng Mt. Diwalwal, mangingisda sa ilalim ng DAO17 at mga Bilaan ng Maguindanao upang isauli ang lupa ng kanilang ninuno.
- Inusig ang mga illegal loggers at mga makapangyarihang partido sa kontrobersyal na importasyon ng ozone depleting substance at hazardous waste.
- Nagpatupad ng programa para sa malinis na tubig at malawak na reforestation tugon sa panganib ng climate change.

ALVAREZ, KONTRA TRAPO! KAKAMPI NG TAO!
IBALIK SA SENADO!

Political Ad paid by Advocates of Alvarez Independent Senatorial Campaign

GMA broke law, says IBP

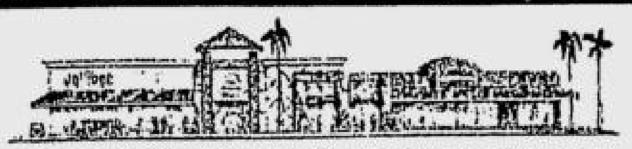
THE INTEGRATED Bar of the Philippines has accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of breaking the law for failing to fill the vacancy in the Supreme Court.

In a two-page resolution, the IBP board of governors expressed its "serious concern" over Ms Macapagal's failure to appoint a new SC justice despite the Constitutional imperative she fill a vacancy within 90 days of a justice's retirement, in this case Justice Josue Bellosillo who retired on Nov. 13, 2003.

"We're just saying there is a violation of the law. She had 90 days to appoint someone but she did not," said IBP national president Jose Anselmo Cadiz.

Malacañang announced on Feb. 11 the appointment of Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario to the Supreme Court.

But Ms Macapagal changed her mind and said Nazario should remain at the anti-graft court to finish the trial of former President Joseph Estrada on plunder charges. *Philip C. Tubeza*



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, April 17, 2004
Octave of Easter

1st Reading:	Acts 4:13-21
Gospel:	Mk 16:9-15

After Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary of Magdala from whom he had driven out seven demons. She went and reported the news to his followers, who were now mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he lived and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

After this he showed himself in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. These men too went back and told the others, but they did not believe them.

Later Jesus showed himself to the Eleven while they were at table. He reproached them for their unbelief and stubbornness in refusing to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

Then he told them, "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation."

Commentary

Is the faith something you "have," or something you "do?" The simplest words in the language are the most difficult to understand: God, faith, hope, love, soul, mind and those real chestnuts: have, do, be.

They don't appear to be difficult, because we use them so fluently and so often. But look at any one of them and tell me what it means. If I ask no question about your answer, we may think the matter is clear; but if I ask a second or a third question we are both in the depths! Our faith is a bottomless ocean. How could it be otherwise? St. Paul prays that the Ephesians, "knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge [will be] filled with the utter fullness of God" (Eph 3:19). God cannot be our "possession" in the way we possess other things; it is the other way around: we are possessed by God.

We call "fundamentalist" those people who fix their faith in some text as in concrete, casting aside every other consideration. It is a waste of a good word; they are not fundamentalists; they are superficialists, like the Pharisees. Neither are they traditionalists: they cast tradition aside and fix on their own interpretation of the texts.

Our faith takes us beyond all our ready categories. Speak of it, if we will, as something we "have;" but it is safer to think of it as something we "do," and even something that we "are," by God's gift.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (ELECTORAL LAW)—Jurisdiction of the Commission on Elections regarding certificate of candidacy—the Comelec has jurisdiction to deny due course to or cancel a certificate of candidacy. Such jurisdiction continues even after the elections, if for any reason no final judgment of disqualification is rendered before the elections, and the candidate facing disqualification is voted for and receives the highest number of votes, and provided further that the winning candidate has not been proclaimed or taken his oath of office. Furthermore, as provided in the Comelec Rules of Procedure, a decision by the Comelec to disqualify a candidate shall become final and executory only after a period of five days: Sec. 3. Decisions After Five Days.—Decisions in pre-proclamation cases and petitions to deny due course to or cancel certificates of candidacy, to declare a candidate as nuisance candidate or to disqualify a candidate, and to postpone or suspend elections shall become final and executory after the lapse of five days from their promulgation, unless restrained by the Supreme Court. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Azcuna, Saya-ang vs Commission on Elections, G.R. No. 155087, November 28, 2003] BY R. B. VERA

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-298 Series of 2004

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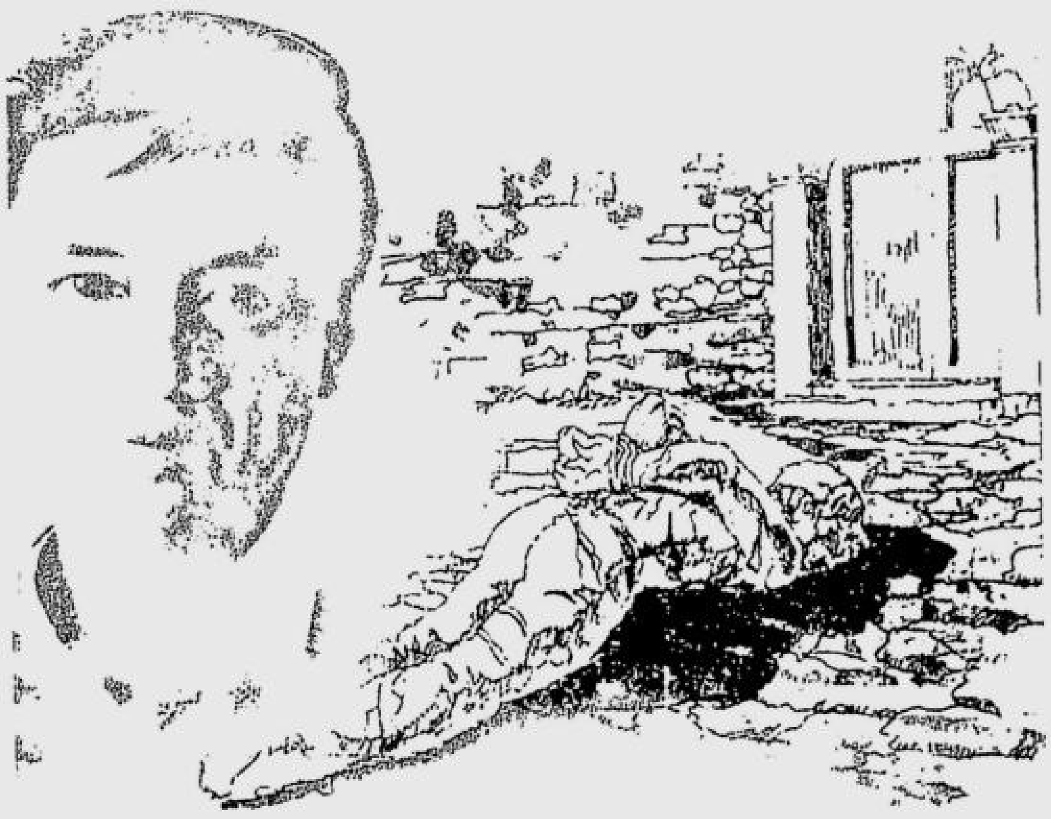

ALVAREZ
KAKAMPI NG MGA API

Noong 1974, ang luray-luray na katawan ni Marsman Alvarez, kapatid ni Heherson, ay itinapon sa harap ng isang simbahan sa Isabela. Inukit ang kanyang mga mata. Dinurog ang kanyang bungo at panga. Binunot ang dila, ngipin at kuko. Sa libing ni Marsman, inatake sa puso at namatay din ang ama ni Alvarez. Ang kanyang ina at isa pang kapatid ay halos nasiraan ng bait. Ang walang awang pagpaslang ay kabayaran ng walang takot na paglaban ni Heherson Alvarez sa diktadura at mga TRAPO na kasabwat sa paggahasa ng bayan.

33 TAON NG PANININDIGAN SA PRINSIPYO.

KAKAMPI NG KALAYAAN
- Isa sa 10 Outstanding Con-Con Delegates, 1971; Isa sa hindi pumirma sa Marcos constitution.
- Kontra Marcos: Namuno ng Ninoy Aquino Movement na nagbunyag ng nakaw na yaman at walang tigil na tumutol sa US aid sa diktadura.
- Pinarangalan ng United Nations Day Human Rights Award ng Fund for Free Expression, New York.

MAKATAONG MAMBABATAS
Bilang Senador ng 12 taon:
- Ama ng Comprehensive Agrarian Reform at Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
- Panday ng Nursing Act, National Commission on Culture and the Arts at Department of Energy, at ang Eid'l Fitri para sa mga kapatid na muslim.
- Utak ng Clean Air Act, Integrated Protected Areas System at Solid Waste Management.
- Sponsor ng ratification ng ILO convention Rights of Migrant Workers at Indigenous Peoples.

Bilang Kongresista:
- Isinulong ang IMPEACHMENT laban kay ERAP.
- Sponsor ng mga batas para sa kababaihan, kabataan at may kapansanan.

KAKAMPI NG KALIKASAN
Bilang DENR Secretary:
- Tagapagtanggol ng maliliit na mga minero ng Mt. Diwalwal, mangingisda sa ilalim ng DAO17 at mga Bilaan ng Maguindanao upang isauli ang lupa ng kanilang ninuno.
- Inusig ang mga illegal loggers at mga makapangyarihang partido sa kontrobersyal na importasyon ng ozone depleting substance at hazardous waste.
- Nagpatupad ng programa para sa malinis na tubig at malawak na reforestation tugon sa panganib ng climate change.

ALVAREZ, KONTRA TRAPO! KAKAMPI NG TAO!
IBALIK SA SENADO!

[illegible]

GMA broke law, says IBP

THE INTEGRATED Bar of the Philippines has accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of breaking the law for failing to fill the vacancy in the Supreme Court.

In a two-page resolution, the IBP board of governors expressed its "serious concern" over Ms Macapagal's failure to appoint a new SC justice despite the Constitutional imperative she fill a vacancy within 90 days of a justice's retirement, in this case Justice Josue Bellosillo who retired on Nov. 13, 2003.

"We're just saying there is a violation of the law. She had 90 days to appoint someone but she did not," said IBP national president Jose Anselmo Cadiz.

Malacañang announced on Feb. 11 the appointment of Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario to the Supreme Court.

But Ms Macapagal changed her mind and said Nazario should remain at the anti-graft court to finish the trial of former President Joseph Estrada on plunder charges. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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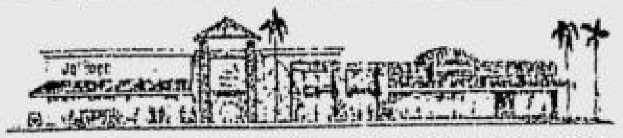

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From now on throughout the Church, the second Sunday of Easter will be called DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY.
(Pope John Paul II, April 30, 2000).

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Per DTI-NCR
Permit No. A3-298
Series of 2004

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, April 17, 2004
Octave of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 4:13-21
Gospel: Mk 16:9-15

After Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary of Magdala from whom he had driven out seven demons. She went and reported the news to his followers, who were now mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he lived and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

After this he showed himself in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. These men too went back and told the others, but they did not believe them.

Later Jesus showed himself to the Eleven while they were at table. He reproached them for their unbelief and stubbornness in refusing to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

Then he told them, "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation."

Commentary

Is the faith something you "have," or something you "do?" The simplest words in the language are the most difficult to understand: God, faith, hope, love, soul, mind and those real chestnuts: have, do, be.

They don't appear to be difficult, because we use them so fluently and so often. But look at any one of them and tell me what it means. If I ask no question about your answer, we may think the matter is clear; but if I ask a second or a third question we are both in the depths! Our faith is a bottomless ocean. How could it be otherwise? St. Paul prays that the Ephesians, "knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge [will be] filled with the utter fullness of God" (Eph 3:19). God cannot be our "possession" in the way we possess other things; it is the other way around: we are possessed by God.

We call "fundamentalist" those people who fix their faith in some text as in concrete, casting aside every other consideration. It is a waste of a good word; they are not fundamentalists; they are superficialists, like the Pharisees. Neither are they traditionalists; they cast tradition aside and fix on their own interpretation of the texts.

Our faith takes us beyond all our ready categories. Speak of it, if we will, as something we "have;" but it is safer to think of it as something we "do," and even something that we "are," by God's gift.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Website: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http:// missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (ELECTORAL LAW) Jurisdiction of the Commission on Elections regarding certificate of candidacy —the Comelec has jurisdiction to deny due course to or cancel a certificate of candidacy. Such jurisdiction continues even after the elections, if for any reason no final judgment of disqualification is rendered before the elections, and the candidate facing disqualification is voted for and receives the highest number of votes, and provided further that the winning candidate has not been proclaimed or taken his oath of office. Furthermore, as provided in the Comelec Rules of Procedure, a decision by the Comelec to disqualify a candidate shall become final and executory only after a period of five days: Sec. 3. Decisions After Five Days.—Decisions in pre-proclamation cases and petitions to deny due course to or cancel certificates of candidacy, to declare a candidate as nuisance candidate or to disqualify a candidate, and to postpone or suspend elections shall become final and executory after the lapse of five days from their promulgation, unless restrained by the Supreme Court. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Azcuna, Saya-ang vs Commission on Elections, G.R. No. 155087, November 28, 2003]

BY R. B. VERA

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Sacked for guesting 'wrong' bets

By Alcuin Papa

FOR GUESTING senatorial candidates from the opposition on a public affairs program aired over government station NBN-4, two of the show's producers and three production assistants were reportedly axed from the show by presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye and his deputy, Ricardo Saludo.

But Saludo insisted no such firing took place, adding that a news report of the incident was a case of "unprofessional and irresponsible reporting."

A source at the station, however, told the INQUIRER that Bunye and Saludo showed up at the NBN office on Visayas Avenue in Quezon City Wednesday morning and demanded the ouster of the five staff members of "Hatol ng Bayan," a program featuring election-related issues.

The "axing" reportedly came after senatorial candidates Frank Chavez of the Alyansa ng Pag-Asa and independent Heherson Alvarez guested on the show Tuesday . Lito Banayo, spokesperson for presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson, was also supposed to be on the same show but backed out at the last minute, the source added.

"*Bakit pinalusot yan*? (Why was this allowed to happen?)," Saludo was said to have asked the station's executives when he and Bunye turned up at the NBN office the following day. A "calmer" Bunye, however, merely reminded the staff to include at least one candidate from the administration K-4 coalition as part of the guest line-up.

An executive of the station told the INQUIRER that she heard about the incident, but was unable to provide details. In a radio interview over dzBB yesterday morning, NBN general manager Jose Isabelo said Bunye and Saludo went to their office, but the staff members were only "reshuffled" to other programs.

Saludo said the report was "particularly galling" because it smeared his reputation of almost two decades, in both local and international journalism.

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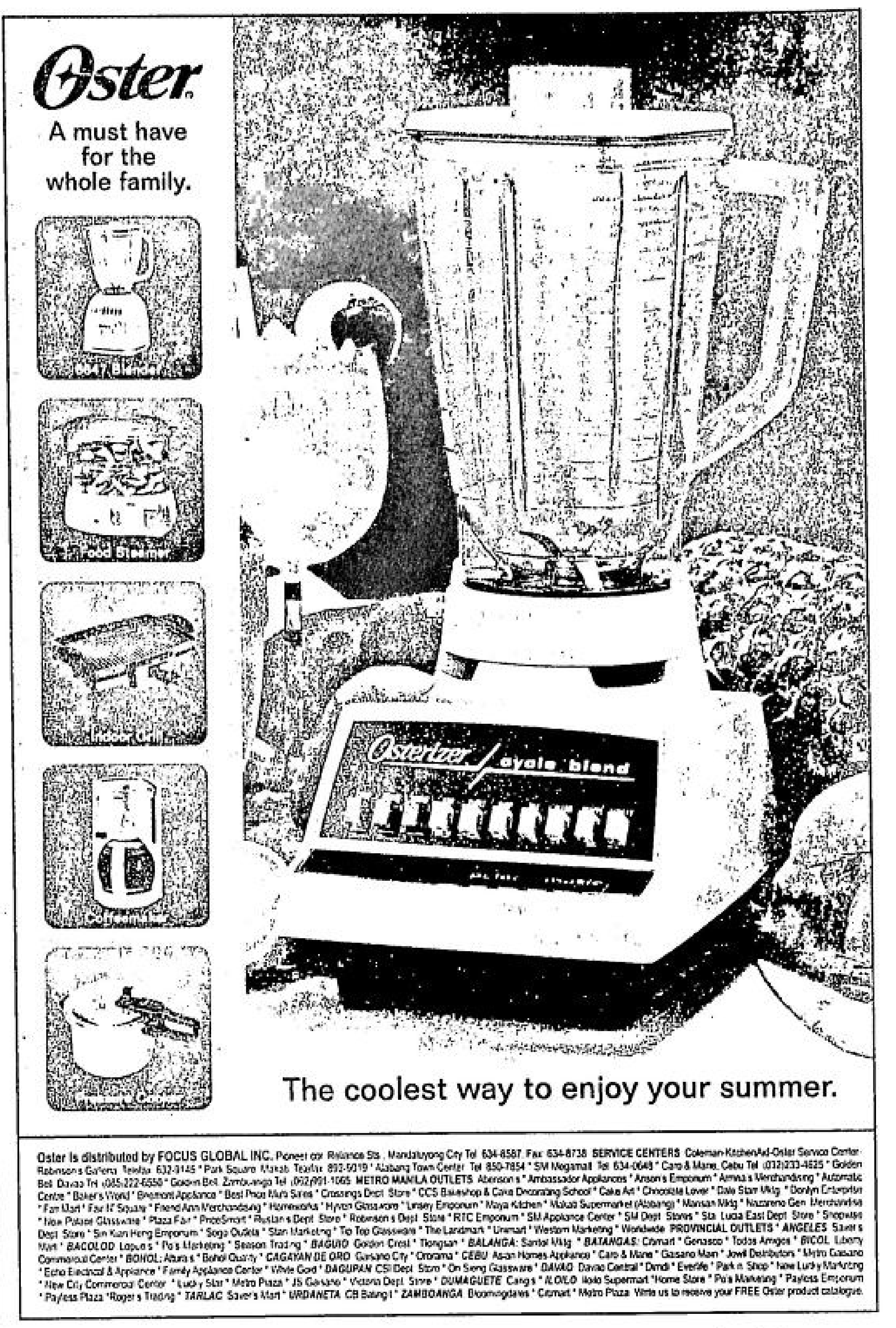

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590,000	49,167	33,955	27,448	19,635	15,844	13,971

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Robot offers to testify against Misuari, Abus

From page A1

"I had already decided to surrender even before the military captured me in an encounter. I even have letters from President Arroyo as proof. The letters are with my wife," Andang told the INQUIRER.

He said some Abu Sayyaf leaders got wind of his plan to surrender and tipped off the military to his whereabouts. He said one of the leaders who betrayed him was Adzi Ramin, who is based in Jolo and whose group, Andang claimed, was responsible for the bombings and kidnappings.

Andang, who carried a P5 million reward on his head, said Ramin's group was actually at odds with the Abu Sayyaf splinter group headed by Khadaffy Janjalani to which he [Andang] belonged.

Andang is believed to have led the Abu Sayyaf raid of the Malaysian diving resort of Sipadan in 2000, in which 21 mostly foreign hostages were seized. He gained further notoriety when he and his group seized the American missionary couple, Martin and Gracia Burnham, with several others from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan the following year.

GHALIB Andang (aka Commander Robot) is wheeled to police headquarters by prison officers for the hearing on rebellion charges and the kidnapping of 21 tourists from Sipadan diving resort in Malaysia four years ago.

REUTERS

Andang was constantly seen carrying high-powered firearms while being interviewed by the media.

But his lawyer, Oliver Lozano, said yesterday that he had not been told of Andang's offer to turn state witness.

State Prosecutor Peter Ong said he also had yet to be informed of Andang's offer, adding that it would be the justice department that would act on it.

In General Santos City, a ranking leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front believed to be working with Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani and the dreaded Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group eluded arrest on Thursday.

A team of police and military operatives set up a checkpoint near the boundary of Tupi and Polomolok towns in South Cotabato to lay a trap for Roy Seddic, who was said to be returning from General Santos City. Authorities had been tipped off about Seddic's scheduled trip to the city.

MILF leader eludes arrest

Seddic escaped but two of his men, Alidin Seddic and Ibrahim Utap, were arrested, according to Supt. Willie Dangane, the General Santos police director. Alidin is Seddic's first cousin while Utap is a village official of Polomolok.

Alidin and Utap were riding on one motorcycle while Seddic was following them in another when they were intercepted by members of the General Santos City Police Command and the Army's 27th Infantry Battalion at about 9 a.m. on Thursday.

Fund raising thru kidnaps

Dangane said Seddic immediately sped away while the team was arresting his companions who yielded a fragmentation grenade, a .38 caliber revolver and an assortment of bullets.

Based on their interrogation of the arrested suspects, Dangane said the three were planning to stage a kidnapping here.

He said the suspects revealed that Seddic, who led the raid to rescue Pentagon leader Alonto Tahir from the city jail here in 2000, had allied himself with Janjalani and planned to raise P3 million through kidnappings.

The suspects also told investigators that the money would be used in terror attacks in various parts of Mindanao, including this city.

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the MILF, said Seddic had never been involved in kidnappings.

"We are more inclined to believe that his alleged involvement was a concoction by a former MILF leader who has a long-running grudge with his family," Kabalu said.

He would not name the former MILF commander but the INQUIRER learned that a few years ago, Seddic was involved in a bloody feud with MILF commander Nadsid Akmad of Polomolok. *With a report from Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ad agency protests Ping use of 'Coke ko to!' beat

From page A1

They laughed when top-rated show biz talk show "The Buzz" made a spoof of the Beat Game Coke ad.

But when presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson's latest political TV ad looked and sounded like the wildly popular Beat Game, McCann-Erickson Philippines exploded like a badly shaken can of Coke and has requested the senator to stop airing his ad.

Intellectual property

McCann-Erickson, creator of the Beat Game TV advertisement for its client Coca-Cola Export Corp., has cried foul over the disregard for intellectual property rights displayed by Lacson in his TV ad.

Republic Act No. 8293 or the intellectual Property Code states that copyright is vested in an original work from the moment of creation. Original works include pictorial illustrations and advertisements. They are protected from copyright infringement and violators are punishable by law.

McCann-Erickson said in a statement: "Mr. Lacson's TV ad uses the familiar moves, snaps and chant-like melody that are unquestionably lifted from the phenomenally successful Coca-Cola Beat Game TV campaign. This was done without seeking prior consent from McCann-Erickson Philippines, or its client."

"The close resemblance of the two TV advertisements have already misled some viewers and consumers into believing that the Ping ad is either part of the Coca-Cola Beat Game TV campaign series or paid for by McCann-Erickson Philippines and The Coca-Cola Co. in support of Ping Lacson's candidacy," McCann-Erickson said.

MARCOS country harkens to Senator Lacson's bid for the presidency during a rally on Friday in front of the Ilocos Norte provincial capitol.

JOE GALVEZ

The ad was also prejudicial to the reputation of McCann-Erickson Philippines, which "adheres to a strict global policy that disallows McCann agencies worldwide to participate in any form of partisan politics," the statement added.

Greg Garcia, advertising executive and the brains behind the Ping chant ad argued: "A street chant—like rap—is a genre and is not ownable. Coke may have started it but they certainly cannot own the format."

Garcia, however, said the issue could be easily resolved with McCann-Erickson executives, many of whom are his friends.

"Being an (advertising) industry person, I would never infringe upon copyright," he said.

"I also think the Ping ad has given added mileage to the Coke campaign. My friends at McCann and I should just sit down and talk political copy over a bottle of Pepsi," Garcia said, the last sentence in apparent jest.

He added that it was obvious the Ping ad was not a part of the Coke campaign.

"That would be an insult to the viewers. I think they are discerning enough," he added.

Lessons from a Pinay Pulitzer Prize winner

From page A1

the award," Meyer said. "It's primarily because I have the passion and love for (photography) since the time my family migrated in the United States in 1981."

Despite people telling her that her photos were worth a Pulitzer, she said she never expected to win.

"But one thing is very sure, I'm happy and proud to be a Filipino, and will always be," the Bicolana-born awardee said in an interview in her family's ancestral home in Guevarra Subdivision here.

It took more than six decades before another Filipino won a Pulitzer award.

The first was the late journalist-diplomat Carlos P. Romulo, who won the prestigious prize in 1942 for a series of articles on the tense situation ahead of the outbreak of World War II.

In what seemed like a coincidence, Meyer's subject was also about war—she had been assigned in Iraq and her pictures that won her the prize in the photography category were about the Iraq war.

She shared the honor and a financial award of $10,000 with her partner, David Leeson.

'Anything is possible'

Anyone with a passion for journalism and photography can win the Pulitzer or any kind of award. Take it from Meyer.

"Anything is really possible if you really put your mind and heart to it," she said. "Maybe that's the reason why I've come this far. I'm honest with myself and always speak my mind. Thus, I'm competing with myself. That's my personal challenge in life. I want to be the best I can be."

She added: "I love this job and this is what I want to do ... Learn how to value who you are and whatever you want in life. Work for it and the best chances and opportunities will come to you."

Meyer, married to an American named Kenneth Manning, was only 13 and had just finished her first year in high school at Saint Agnes Academy here in 1981 when she and her family migrated to America.

She took up German for her college course, being an exchange scholar in Germany at 16.

"I have no idea then what to take up, so without much plan I just took up this course (major in German)." She took up journalism as a second degree, which eventually led her to "fall in love with photography."

Make mistakes, and grow

After graduating cum laude at the University of Minnesota, she was immediately employed at the Minneapolis Star Tribune. It was at the Tribune that she was given the chance "to make mistakes and permitted to grow," she recalled.

Then she was hired as a senior staff photographer of the Dallas Morning News—where she has been working when she won the Pulitzer.

"I'm so very, very lucky for the opportunities that came to me. I always try to be more artful and creative in my job. I'm inspired by any human-interest story," she said.

"I haven't experienced any racial discrimination from my colleagues, for I'm very true to myself and I know how to defend myself."

"I prove to all of them that I can do better and I really work hard, for what I'm doing is for the best and I really strive for excellence."

'Filipinos make difference'

She said many Filipinos abroad have made breakthroughs in their fields.

"I do believe, based on my experience, that foreigners have high regard for us Filipinos. Anywhere, we can make a difference and impact. It's in our blood to do more than what is expected of us.

"Maybe these opportunities can only be given to us (Filipinos) if we're working abroad than in our country. It's really sad but let's take it as a challenge."

Not known to many, Cheryl was in Legazpi for three days visiting her family and cousins. She said she really never wanted to talk to media.

She just wanted to make her visit very quiet, and make the most of her time with her family.

The INQUIRER, luckily, got to talk with her.

"I'm very proud of being back here ... I'm a Bicolana and I'm very proud of it," Meyer said.

"Of course I really missed my family—a lot of cousins, a lot of relatives. We are very, very close. I can never both explain how happy and wonderful my childhood experience was here in Legazpi."

She said she also missed Bicolano foods, such as laing, the Bicol express, kusido, salted dried fish and even lumpia.

"At least now I know how to cook laing in Dallas," she said.

"Of course, I missed, too, the beautiful Mayon Volcano and other beautiful sceneries here in Albay." She also missed the stories told her when she was a child.

Ghost stories

"I still remember then ghost stories being told to us, especially during the Spanish and Japanese times. It was really scary, and I laugh to myself every time I remember those. I also missed the brownouts," she said.

Out of this art of storytelling, she said, she was able to have the "continuing passion for creative photography."

Even as a child, Cheryl was already adventurous. If she had the passion for something, she would do it.

Worried

From the time that Chit Diaz-Lagata learned from her sister, Sylvia Meyer (Cheryl's mother) abroad that her niece—Cheryl—had been assigned by the Dallas Morning News to cover the US invasion of Iraq, she and other relatives here were "very, very much worried" for her.

At first, Lagata could not believe the news that her niece, the only girl in the family, "is very determined to go to Iraq in spite of the war-torn atmosphere of the place."

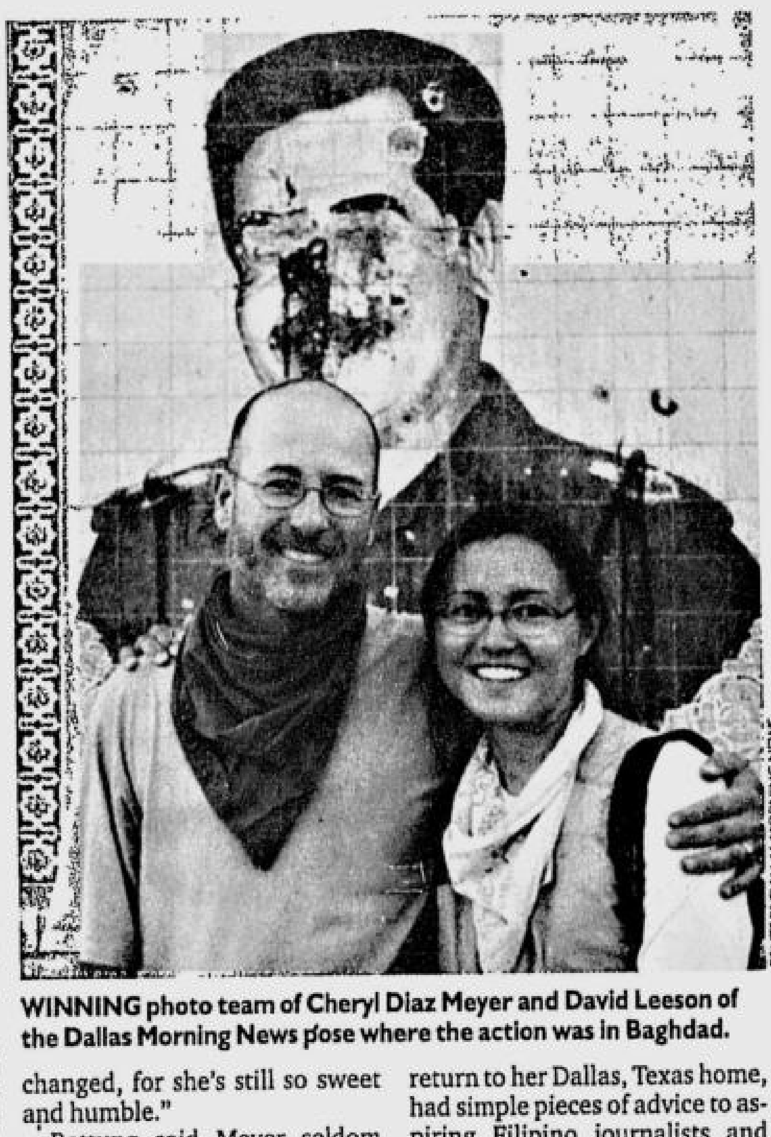
Lagata said: "Actually, it just came to our knowledge when Cheryl was already in Iraq. Thus, we're just amazed to learn from my sister Sylvia that Cheryl had been twice assigned in Iraq during the very, very violent retaliation of Iraqis against Americans.

"Just try to imagine that? She's a very intrepid and determined person ... We're very, very proud of her. Indeed her passion and determination paid well."

Meyer's cousin, Rosemarie Battung, remembered her as "a very simple girl (with) that overwhelming desire to accomplish (things) if she thinks she can do it and as long she really likes it."

Still so humble

Said Lagata: "The last time she visited us here, we were totally amazed, for she still knew how to speak Bicol fluently. And as far as attitude and upbringing is concerned, nothing has changed, for she's still so sweet and humble."



WINNING photo team of Cheryl Diaz Meyer and David Leeson of the Dallas Morning News pose where the action was in Baghdad.

REUTERS/DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Battung said Meyer seldom talked about her job and her experiences as a photographer.

"She simply talks about her childhood here and some of the things she really misses about Bicol," Battung said. "She still loves to eat most, if not, all Bicolano dishes being served to her. She's more concerned about our bonding, and it never comes to a point when she would share her experiences about her job.

More advice

Meyer, who left yesterday to return to her Dallas, Texas home, had simple pieces of advice to aspiring Filipino journalists and photographers.

"Read a lot of newspapers. Study the criteria (Pulitzer) for you to win or at least be given the opportunity to compete with the best of the best. There's always a big possibility to win an award if you put your mind and heart to it."

She added: "Write good stories and take artful shots. Of course, be inspired by successful and award-winning individuals. Learn and appreciate their experience."

Gov't, Reds form abuses-monitoring panel

GOVERNMENT and rebel peace negotiators said Thursday a joint body to monitor human rights violations would help clear the way for both sides to focus on substantial agreements to end a 35-year-old communist insurgency.

The government and the National Democratic Front have formed a joint monitoring committee to ensure compliance with the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law the two sides signed in 1998, said Carlos P. Medina Jr., head of the government's three-member panel in the peace body.

Fidel Agcaoili, head of the NDF panel, said negotiators would be able to discuss "the substantive agenda of the peace negotiations and not be bogged down by accusations of human rights violations," which had caused the talks to stall in the past.

Medina said the secretariat, the committee's workhorse, will be prepared to start work by May 18, when it establishes its office in Manila.

Ambassador Paul Moe of Norway, which has been brokering the talks, described formation of the joint committee as a "great achievement" since off-and-on talks started in 1992.

He indicated the Norwegian government would provide funding for the secretariat. *AP*

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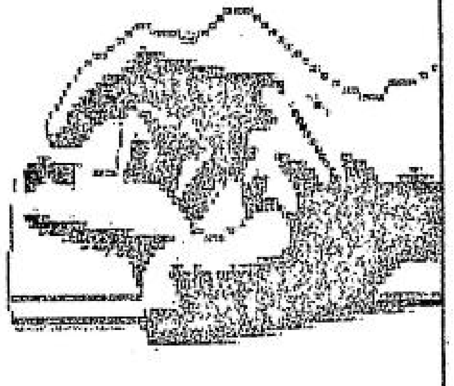

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2 groups dump 'Da King'

From page A1

as saying: "Our country needs someone like Ping who fights real criminals, not FPJ, who fights them only in the movies."

"We don't need an actor. We need Lacson, who has a firm decision as the next leader of this country," Dequina further quoted Dimaporo as saying in a press conference at the Maharlika Village in Taguig.

Dequina claimed the group boasts of 60,000 members based in the Taguig Muslim community.

But Taha Basman, president of the Philippine Islamic Council, questioned the strength of the group.

Basman told the INQUIRER that as far as he knew, Dimaporo's group represented "only a few Muslims."

Dequina said yesterday's defection came four days after another group, the United Sectoral Movement for FPJ, left Poe's camp to link up with Lacson.

Now calling itself the United Sectoral Movement for Ping Lacson, the group consists of 83 organizations with a total of 3.2 million members nationwide, Dequina claimed.

More defections

Dequina said the Lacson camp was expecting more defections from groups such as Joseph Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

The INQUIRER could not immediately verify his claims.

Dequina said he had also met with an Ilocos Sur provincial board member who expressed his intention to leave Poe for Lacson.

Poe supporters neglected

The unnamed official purportedly claimed that 500 other PMP local leaders were expected to follow suit.

In Davao City, other supporters of Poe said they were deserting him to join forces with Lacson.

Josefino Sanchez, a senior organizer of the Freedom, Peace and Justice Movement (FPJM), told the INQUIRER that about 60 leaders and coordinators of FPJM had decided to break away from Poe's campaign for several reasons.

The group is distinct from the Filipinos for Peace Justice and Progress Movement (FPJPM).

'Unreachable'

Sanchez said the reasons included their frustration at Poe's being "unreachable" and neglect by leaders of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP). .

"They're making us feel that they don't need us at all. There is no symbiotic relationship between us and the Poe leaders in Manila," Sanchez said.

He said his group took charge of recruiting supporters for the movie king but after they organized locally, they were left on their own.

The decision by Sanchez's group to shift allegiance came barely a week after Poe's supporters in Cebu also reportedly decided to support Lacson.

Generoso Langomes, FPJPM coordinator in Cebu, said they already dissolved the group and renamed it "Freedom and Justice for Ping Lacson."

Others, too?

"We are now withdrawing our support for FPJ and we are now supporting Ping Lacson because we believe that he has the capability to run the country," Langomes said on April 8.

Earlier, the Cebu-based FPJ Movers also stopped campaigning for Poe and decided to support President Macapagal-Arroyo's candidacy.

KNP officials had downplayed the defections, saying those who shifted their allegiance were mad because they were not able to get money from the actor.

Sanchez stressed that their withdrawal of support for Poe had nothing to do with money.

"We are withdrawing not because of money. We know volunteers don't get paid. However, we were asking for posters of Poe from them but they consistently ignored us," he said.

Neglect

This neglect, Sanchez said, drove FPJM coordinators in the provinces of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Sarangani, Caraga and North Cotabato to become restive.

He said after informal talks about two weeks ago, the coordinators agreed to throw their support behind Lacson's candidacy.

He said he immediately talked with Lacson's spokesperson, Lito Banayo, to finalize the defection.

Big blow

"We are still talking with those in Davao and in Zamboanga. This could be a big blow to Poe's ambition of winning in the presidential race. We are aware that our massive defection could leave a bad impression against Poe and the people around him," he said.

Asked how influential his group is, Sanchez said the FPJM should not be underestimated because their "clout" reaches the barangay levels.

"People are starting to wake up now. (They are realizing that) Ping is far more qualified than Poe," he said.

FPJ, Lacson to talk unity on Estrada birthday

From page A1

be crucial considering that the election was fast approaching.

But he reiterated that he would not drop out of the presidential race.

Compromise inevitable

Poe ally Rep. Harry Angping (NPC, Manila) said a "compromise" between the two candidates was "inevitable" because even the monolithic Iglesia ni Cristo wanted a united opposition to support in the presidential election.

By "compromise," he said, he meant that one candidate would have to give way to the other.

Angping said the INC—estimated to number between two and four million and known to vote as a bloc—"always voted for the opposition in the post-Marcos era."

He was referring to the INC's support for businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. and Estrada in the presidential elections of 1992 and 1998, respectively.

The INC announces to its members the candidate it is supporting at least two weeks before election day.

Sources claimed that at least 80 INC ministers heading the church's ecclesiastical districts nationwide had started their April 16-19 consultations on the May 10 polls.

The ministers are reportedly meeting at the INC central temple in Diliman, Quezon City.

INC spokesperson Bievenido Santiago is out of town and unavailable for official comment.

'Too close for comfort'

Recent surveys showed Poe running neck and neck with President Macapagal-Arroyo, but the latest one by Pulse Asia Inc. showed the latter on top.

But in an earlier interview, KNP senatorial candidate Ernesto Maceda said an INC-commissioned survey showed that Poe was way ahead of his rivals.

Angping conceded that the survey ratings of Ms Macapagal and Poe were "too close for comfort."

"The opposition will have to unite because the race with the incumbent is very tight," he said.

Angping did not say who between Poe and Lacson would have to give way. But he pointed out that of the two, the actor appeared to have more chances of winning.

Text mates

In Laoag City, Lacson denied reports that he and Poe had reached an agreement on a unified opposition, but said their lines of communication remained open.

In fact, Lacson said, he and Poe had even agreed to become text mates: "He said we can text each other even about [not so important] things, such as where one is or how the other is doing."

The senator said this breakthrough happened when he and Poe met one-on-one on Easter Sunday and agreed that the unification of the opposition was possible.

"Our lines of communication are open. We can talk any time," he said.

He also said there was virtually no deadline for the unification: "Even if we reach an agreement just two days before the election, there's still that agreement."

'All the way'

According to Lacson, the main obstacle to the unification process is the decision of the two opposition candidates to "go all the way."

"The problem is, my mind has been set to go for [the presidency] all the way," he said. "On [Poe's] part, it might be the same. This is the main hitch."

On reports that the INC and the El Shaddai had been brokering talks between him and Poe to hasten the unification process, Lacson said "I don't think so" in the INC's case and "The information is wrong" in the case of El Shaddai.

The two candidates narrowly missed each other at the El Shaddai gathering last week at the Quirino Grandstand, which lasted from Saturday evening to Easter Sunday before dawn.

Promdi concedes Roco can't win, holds secret vote

From page A1

the Alyansa ng Pag-asa and would still support its candidates, he and other Promdi officials had conceded that Alyansa standard-bearer Raul Roco could no longer win in the presidential election.

The Alyansa is a coalition of Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko, Osmeña's Promdi and Renato de Villa's Reporma.

Between Ping and GMA

"The Alyansa is still alive. Promdi is still alive in Cebu, and I will not leave the Alyansa," Osmeña, a former governor of Cebu, said in Cebuano.

Nevertheless, he said, he and other Promdi officials had to decide whom to support between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, or none at all.

"Hopefully, we can still be united on whom to support for president," he said, adding that while the members of the Alyansa youth arm still wanted to vote for Roco, they must be realistic and practical.

The voting was ongoing at press time.

Assurance

But in Manila, Roco political strategist Jaime Galvez-Tan said the Alyansa was intact.

"I talked to Osmeña late [Thursday] night ... and he assured me that his confidence in the campaign of Raul Roco remains and is unwavering," Galvez-Tan said in a phone-patch interview over ABS-CBN News Channel.

Roco's running mate, Herminio Aquino, flatly denied reports that the coalition was planning to merge with other parties and had even asked for campaign money in exchange.

"It is ridiculous, if you ask me, for [Roco] to even consider sliding down to the No. 2 slot, much less run for senator," Aquino said.

Roco, who is in Houston, Texas, for treatment of chronic lower back pain, has undergone a number of tests, but the results are not yet available.

In a statement, Galvez-Tan said the tests were to determine what exactly was causing the pain. "Full disclosure of Roco's medical condition is expected Saturday at the latest," he said.

15 Promdi officials

Osmeña said at least 15 members of Promdi's governing body were expected to take part in the secret vote at the party headquarters on Escario Street.

He named some of them as former Promdi Rep. Joy Augustus Young and Promdi coordinator Oscar Canton.

He said Alyansa provincial coordinator Vic Dumon joined the voting as the lone coalition official in Cebu.

According to Osmeña, he has conducted consultations with various mayors in Cebu who are affiliated with the ruling Lakas-CMD but are allies of Promdi, a number of businessmen, the party's provincial candidates, and members of the Promdi women and youth groups.

He said the businessmen wanted to support Lacson because they believed that the senator would be able to provide security and economic stability. Most of the politicians, he said, were for Ms Macapagal.

Osmeña said Promdi might also adopt five more senatorial candidates because Alyansa had only seven candidates.

WHEN it all started, former Cebu Gov. Lito Osmeña solidly stands beside his alliance partners Raul Roco and Renato de Villa as they are cheered by thousands last November during a convention at the Folk Arts Theater. PDI PHOTO

He said the result of the consultations and the secret vote would be brought up during his meeting with top officials of Promdi, Reporma and Aksyon Demokratiko.

Money politics

Aquino stressed that the Alyansa had enough money to fund the campaign.

"Our provincial sorties, our caucuses, our propaganda campaign will continue until election day," he said, adding:

"We are still open to mergers at this point, but it should be based on principles, and not on money."

The Alyansa is running its campaign on a P200-million kitty, Roco had earlier disclosed.

Aquino said "money politics" was precisely one of the evils that the coalition was fighting.

"No sooner had Roco left than these stories that he was bought off started coming out," Aquino said. "This election is becoming a commodity. And this is exactly what we are fighting against."

Alyansa senatorial candidate Edno Joson said the coalition's principles and ideals were not for sale.

"The truth is, if you are principled, you will continue with the fight," said the former governor of Nueva Ecija. "Your hope is that the country will be awakened, and that it can depend on your commitment. We can't be bought."

Talks still on

In Laoag City, Lacson said talks with Roco's camp were still on.

However, he said, Roco's camp was thinking that his camp had so much money that it could shoulder the estimated P100 million still needed by the Alyansa senatorial and local candidates to keep their campaign running.

He also said Aquino "is not in on" and "doesn't know anything about" the talks.

Only on Thursday, Lacson said he was no longer interested in a merger of forces with Roco's camp. He was miffed by statements from the other side that it was his camp who had initiated merger talks.

"Politics is addition, but we have to be decent with another," Lacson said yesterday when asked whether his camp was still open to adopting Alyansa's senatorial and local candidates.

On Thursday, Lacson said it was Osmeña who had sought a meeting with his camp for a possible merger—a plan that even included Roco sliding down to become a senatorial candidate.

P100-M campaign funds

He even accused Osmeña of seeking concessions, including some P100 million in campaign funds, in behalf of Roco's camp.

"I don't think it is still [an option] ... I'm no longer interested," Lacson said then of the supposed planned merger. They should just have kept their mouths shut, or they should've told the truth that they were the ones who approached us."

He said it was Osmeña and his political adviser Lito Banayo who were "the ones talking."

Banayo clarified that Osmeña did not ask for money in exchange for the planned merger between Lacson's camp and the Alyansa.

He said Osmeña merely wanted an assurance that campaign funds would be available in the event of a merger. He said he decided to issue a statement because of the misconception that Osmeña had demanded money to replenish campaign expenses.

Banayo said that while both camps told the truth, the problem started in the "wrong choice" of words, which were interpreted by the media in another way.

20 possible conditions

Galvez-Tan, a physician, said there were 20 possible conditions that might be causing Roco's lower back pain.

"I think our political enemies will feast on it, but as a medical person, I'd just like to say [that] any of the possible 20 conditions of Raul Roco will not be an issue, health-wise, in terms of physical, mental and spiritual capability," he said in a TV interview.

Galvez-Tan said that even if Roco were to be found to have prostate cancer, it would be easy to cure.

He added that the treatment for prostate cancer would not weaken the patient.

Roco went under the knife in 1996 for prostate surgery. He said he had been well since then.

Galvez-Tan said prostate cancer was curable in the United States.

"Even [Democratic candidate] John Kerry, who is running against US President George W. Bush, has cancer of the prostate," he pointed out."

PCSO chief De Leon flown to Makati Med

From page A1

ducting a seminar in Baguio City on Thursday, could regain full consciousness in two weeks but full rehabilitation could take three months or even longer.

"Hers is not an ordinary ailment. We are hoping that she will recover in a few months," Aldanese said.

"It was a good thing she was operated on immediately, otherwise she would have suffered severe brain damage or even death," he said.

Left side of brain

The doctor also said that the stroke may not have adversely affected De Leon's speech as the hemorrhage occurred on the left side of the brain which controls an individual's social and non-mathematical skills.

It is the right part of the brain that controls speech, the doctor explained.

De Leon, 57, suffered a stroke during a corporate planning seminar at Microtel Inn and Suites in Baguio City at about 9 a.m. on Thursday.

She was immediately rushed to the BGHMC where she underwent surgery, according to her son and chief of staff Don.

Don said his mother was a workaholic, dedicating up to 17 hours a day to her job.

On the day she collapsed, De Leon had slept at 2 a.m. and woke up at 6 a.m., her son said.

"My mother finds joy in her job, but if it were up to me, I would make sure that she be well-rested and not go back to work anymore," said Don, who is the eldest of De Leon's three sons.

Don added that the family's main concern now was to monitor his mother's progress and pray for her speedy recovery.

Thanks GMA

"We would like to thank President Macapagal-Arroyo for giving us full assistance in my mother's evacuation and even sending her own personal surgeon," he said.

He said the 20-seater Lear jet was provided by his mother's insurance company, Lifeline.

In Baguio City, De Leon's younger brother, Ilocos Vice Gov. Jeremias Singson described De Leon's recovery as "like a miracle."

"The big blood clot in her brain doesn't seem to be there anymore and there may not be any brain damage," he said.

"She is stable, maybe because she is a very strong lady. She is very strong-willed," he added.

On the flight with De Leon were her older brother, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, her Baguio surgeon and Aldanese.

The rest of the relatives followed five minutes later in a 60-seater government plane.

Tears

Jeremias said his sister shed some tears when relatives spoke to her on Thursday morning.

"When we talked to her, she was crying. This is a good thing because it means she can listen to us. She can also move both her legs and arms," he said.

Chavit said the family made the decision to immediately airlift his sister and take her to the Makati Medical Center which has more sophisticated equipment.

"The doctors here [BGHMC] are good but their equipment are limited," he said.

Surgeons had to cut into De Leon's skull and retract the brain to reach the aneurysm, which is a weakened part of a blood vessel.

A ruptured aneurysm can be life-threatening and can produce paralysis, stroke or death.

PCSO officials suspended their workshops and left Baguio at 1 p.m. yesterday.

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Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Japan hostages freed; 2 want to stay on in Iraq

صور تظهر الرهائن اليابانيين الثلاثة
بعد الإفراج عنهم اليوم
خبر عاجل

JAPANESE nationals Nahoko Takato, left, and Noriaki Imai, toast their freedom in this image from television in Baghdad, April 15, following their release by kidnappers. AP

TOKYO—Three freed Japanese hostages were to leave Iraq on Friday as the government in Tokyo breathed a sigh of relief, but a controversy was brewing after two said they still wanted to work in the war-torn country.

The release of Noriaki Imai, 18, freelance journalist Soichiro Koriyama, 32, and aid worker Nahoko Takato, 34, was a boon for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who had faced his biggest political challenge to date after militants threatened to kill them unless he pulled Japanese troops out of Iraq.

But the fate of two other missing Japanese remained unclear and debate over Tokyo's military mission raged on.

Koizumi, a staunch supporter of the United States in Iraq, vowed again to keep Japanese troops in Iraq, but admitted he had faced a painful decision while the three hostages were in danger.

"We could not give in to the demands of the captors. But we had to rescue the three," he told reporters. "It was a difficult job."

TV news showed the trio looking tired but in good health in a meeting with a Muslim cleric who helped arrange their release.

They were to fly to Dubai on Friday and were likely to return to Japan at the weekend. But at least two expressed an intention to carry on their work in Iraq.

"I will continue," said a tearful Takato, when asked if she planned to keep on with her aid work. "They did some awful things, but I cannot bring myself to hate the Iraqi people."

Koriyama's comments suggested he wanted to return. "Taking photos is my job," he said in Baghdad.

The three had already come under criticism in some quarters for traveling to Iraq despite the obvious dangers and on Friday, Koizumi reacted angrily when asked about their desire to return.

"A great number of people in the government, forgetting food and sleep, worked for their rescue," a visibly irritated Koizumi said. "They should realize this."

"They should decide after they come back to Japan, cool off and think seriously," an equally annoyed Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda said in reply to a question about the apparent desire of Takato and Koriyama to work in Iraq again. *Reuters*

Europe rejects Bin Laden's truce offer

WASHINGTON—Europe on Thur rejected an apparent truce offer made by terror mastermind Osama bin Laden in an audiotape the CIA said appeared to be genuine, saying there would be no negotiations with the most wanted man in the Western world.

The audio cassette attributed to the al-Qaida leader responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks offered peace to European countries that refrain from aggression toward Muslims and pull their troops out of the Muslim world.

It also vowed to avenge Israel's assassination last month of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, founder and spiritual leader of the radical Palestinian movement Hamas.

The audiotape emerged amid a spate of kidnappings of foreign nationals in Iraq by insurgents apparently seeking to destabilize the US-led occupation and a bloody rebellion against the coalition forces.

There was no immediate reaction to the tape from Washington but in rapid fire succession, France, Britain, Spain and Italy—as well as the 15-member European Union (which expands to 25 countries on May 1)—rejected the offer as a ploy by terrorists.

"There is no negotiation possible with terrorists," French President Jacques Chirac said in Algiers, where he was on a brief visit.

"Terrorism is a barbarous act which attacks innocent people, which cannot be justified by any reason or any cause," he said.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said such proposals should be treated "with the contempt which they deserve."

Al-Qaida, said Straw, "is a murderous organization which seeks impossible objectives by the most violent of means... I'm afraid that it is yet another bare-faced attempt to divide the international community."

Incoming Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos said Spaniards should "neither listen to, nor pay attention to" the Bin Laden tape. *AFP*

US extends tours of GIs in Iraq; deaths mount

WASHINGTON—Expressing surprise at the growing US military death toll in Iraq, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Thursday he had extended the promised year-long tours of 20,000 American troops there including 6,000 Reserve and National Guard members.

Rumsfeld stopped short of saying the Pentagon failed to put enough forces into Iraq when it invaded a year ago, but conceded he did not expect that dozens of US troops would die in fighting with Sunnis and Shiites in the past week alone.

"I certainly would not have estimated that we would have had the individuals lost that we have had lost in the last week," he told a press conference, responding to questions on the deaths of at least 93 US troops since March 31.

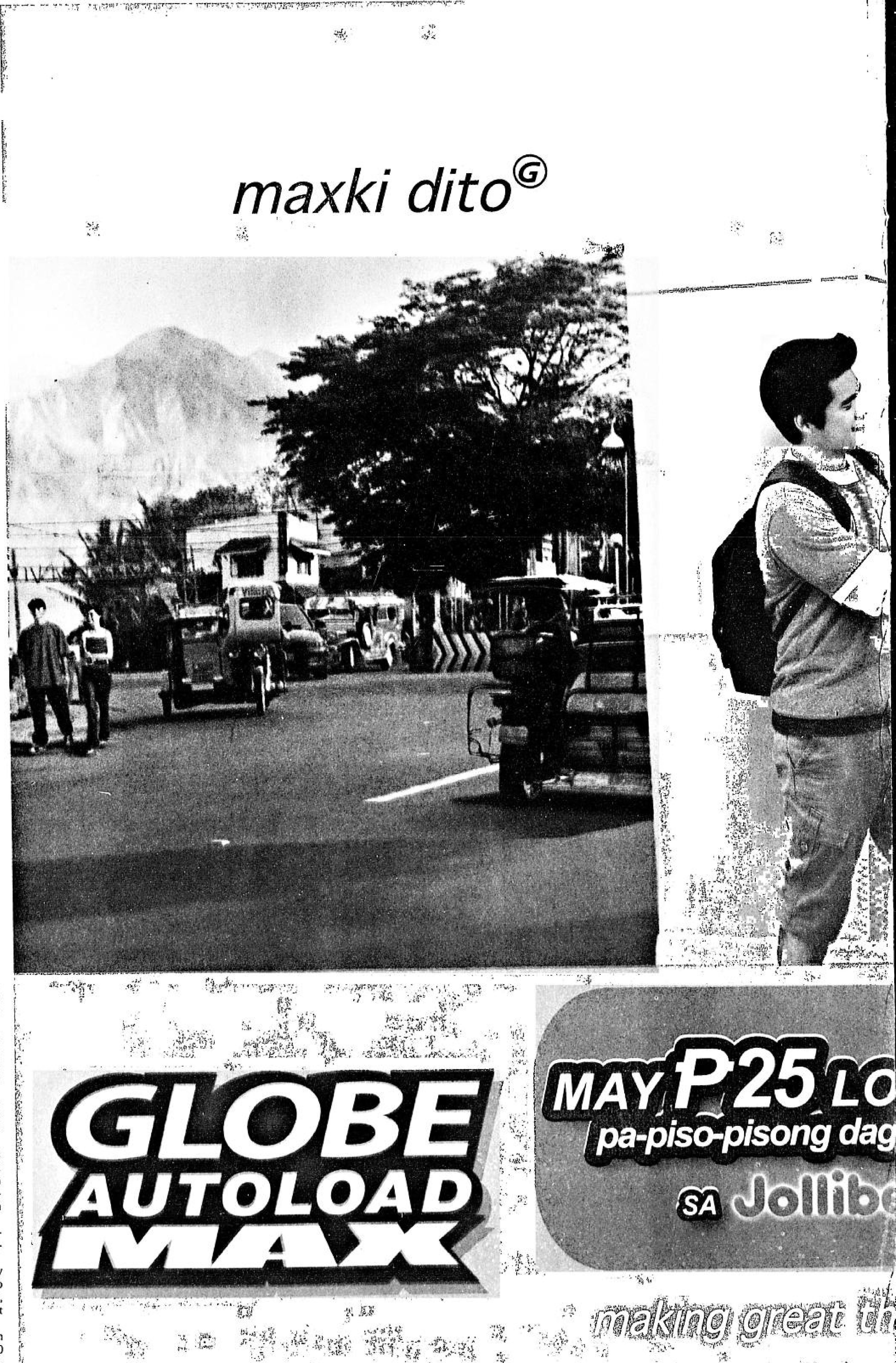
This month's toll has pushed to more than 680 the total number of US troops who have died in Iraq from "hostile action," accidents and other causes since the war began.

Like President George W. Bush in a news conference earlier this week, Rumsfeld stopped far short of bowing to charges from critics that Washington had simply not anticipated the lawlessness and opposition that a US-led coalition is now be battling in Iraq.

"I would rather answer it my way," a grim-faced Rumsfeld retorted at one point after being pressed repeatedly on the issue.

"What I said, I thought, reasonably clearly was that if, a year ago, you had asked me to describe where you would be on April 15, 2004, in Iraq... I would not have described it precisely the way we are now," he added.

There are currently about 137,000 US troops in Iraq and that number will remain at about 135,000 for at least the next three months instead of following a previous plan to draw the number down to 115,000 in the coming two weeks. *Reuters*



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Japan hostages freed; 2 want to stay on in Iraq

JAPANESE nationals Nahoko Takato, left, and Noriaki Imai, toast their freedom in this image from television in Baghdad, April 15, following their release by kidnappers. AP

TOKYO—Three freed Japanese hostages were to leave Iraq on Friday as the government in Tokyo breathed a sigh of relief, but a controversy was brewing after two said they still wanted to work in the war-torn country.

The release of Noriaki Imai, 18, freelance journalist Soichiro Koriyama, 32, and aid worker Nahoko Takato, 34, was a boon for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who had faced his biggest political challenge to date after militants threatened to kill them unless he pulled Japanese troops out of Iraq.

But the fate of two other missing Japanese remained unclear and debate over Tokyo's military mission raged on.

Koizumi, a staunch supporter of the United States in Iraq, vowed again to keep Japanese troops in Iraq, but admitted he had faced a painful decision while the three hostages were in danger.

"We could not give in to the demands of the captors. But we had to rescue the three," he told reporters. "It was a difficult job."

TV news showed the trio looking tired but in good health in a meeting with a Muslim cleric who helped arrange their release.

They were to fly to Dubai on Friday and were likely to return to Japan at the weekend. But at least two expressed an intention to carry on their work in Iraq.

"I will continue," said a tearful Takato, when asked if she planned to keep on with her aid work. "They did some awful things, but I cannot bring myself to hate the Iraqi people."

Koriyama's comments suggested he wanted to return. "Taking photos is my job," he said in Baghdad.

The three had already come under criticism in some quarters for traveling to Iraq despite the obvious dangers and on Friday, Koizumi reacted angrily when asked about their desire to return.

"A great number of people in the government, forgetting food and sleep, worked for their rescue," a visibly irritated Koizumi said. "They should realize this."

"They should decide after they come back to Japan, cool off and think seriously," an equally annoyed Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda said in reply to a question about the apparent desire of Takato and Koriyama to work in Iraq again. *Reuters*

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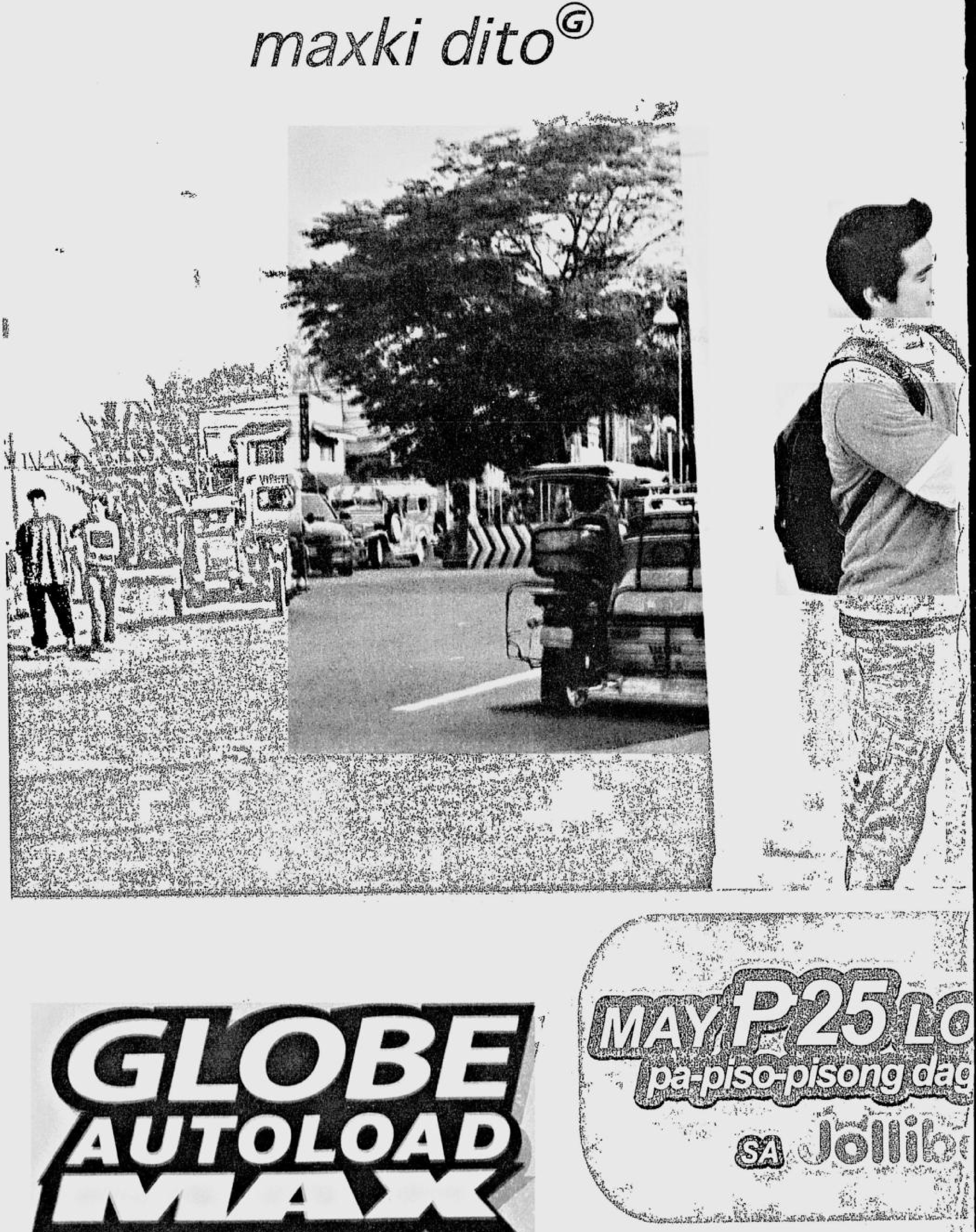

Bush ME shift draws Arab rage, European caution

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PARIS—Washington's surprise policy shift on the Middle East drew Arab outrage on Thursday and caution from some European sponsors of the region's roadmap for peace.

On Wednesday, US President George W. Bush gave unprecedented backing to a plan by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to unilaterally pull out of the Gaza Strip but keep settlements in parts of the West Bank captured in 1967.

Flouting successive United Nations resolutions, Bush said it was "unrealistic" to expect Israel to pull out from all land captured in the 1967 war and added that Palestinian refugees should not be allowed to return to land lost to Israel in 1948, when the Jewish state was created.

His bombshell, which overturned decades of US policy, caused outrage among Palestinians and other Arab nations. And the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the world's largest grouping of Muslim states, announced an emergency meeting at the request of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Arafat vowed Palestinian refugees forced to leave their homes after the creation of Israel would defend their right to return to their homeland.

"Our destiny is to defend our land, holy sites, Jerusalem and our right to freedom, independence and the right of refugees to return to their homeland," he said.

The Palestinian Authority's permanent observer to the UN, Nasser al-Kidwa, said Washington had effectively torn up the roadmap for Middle East peace sponsored by the "quartet"—the United States, the UN, the European Union and Russia—and was now unfit to mediate in any peace talks.

"It is probably a sad reality that any talks now about the roadmap will be just fantasy," Kidwa said.

French President Jacques Chirac said Israel and the United States should respect international law, calling Sharon's plan and Bush's backing for it a "dangerous" and a "troubling precedent."

"For the borders, I consider that international law must be respected. I have reservations about any unilateral or bilateral undermining of international law," Chirac said.

The UN itself urged Israel not to short-circuit negotiations with the Palestinians.

"The secretary general (Kofi Annan) reiterates his position that final status issues should be determined in negotiations between the parties based on relevant (UN) Security Council resolutions," Annan's spokesperson said in a statement. "He strongly believes that they should refrain from taking any steps that would preempt the outcome of such talks." *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Terror threat in Saudi

WASHINGTON—The United States ordered nonessential diplomats out of Saudi Arabia on Thursday and warned all Americans they should leave, citing fresh signals that attacks are planned on US and Western interests. The decision requires the families of all diplomats at the US Embassy in Riyadh and consulates in Jeddah and Dhahran to leave the kingdom, which is battling a wave of violence believed linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. At least 50 people died last year in suicide bomb attacks on housing compounds in Riyadh and on Tuesday suspected Muslim militants killed four Saudi police officers at checkpoints soon after security forces defused two car bombs in the capital. *Reuters*

Roh wins '4 more years'

ROH

SEOUL—South Korean voters gave impeached President Roh Moo-hyun a new lease of life by delivering him a majority in parliament, but his center-left government faces early critical tests, beginning with Iraq. The populist, pro-Roh Uri Party won a slim majority in the 299-seat National Assembly on Thursday, trouncing the two parties that impeached Roh a month earlier. "Roh has governed for only a year, and the election results show people think they have to give him more trust," said Kim Kwang-dong, politics professor at Korea University in Seoul, after the Uri Party cruised to victory in Thursday's vote. Uri supporters spent the night chanting "Roh Moo-hyun! Roh Moo-hyun" and party officials quickly called for the impeachment to be thrown out so Roh can finish the remaining four years he was elected to serve in December 2002. *Reuters*

South Africa's ANC wins

JOHANNESBURG—South Africa's ruling ANC began to celebrate its biggest election win on Friday, taking on what may be as big a challenge as it faced when apartheid ended 10 years ago: securing economic power for its black majority. With ballots in from more than three quarters of the country's polling stations, the former liberation movement had captured nearly 70 percent of the vote—exceeding its score in the two previous democratic polls and virtually guaranteeing it a coveted two thirds majority in parliament. This gives the African National Congress the right to amend the constitution at will. But it also piles more pressure on its leaders to solve the problems which keep most of South Africa's 45 million people poor—high unemployment, AIDS and crime. *Reuters*

Force reduction in Kabul

KABUL—The United States, which has increased its troops in Afghanistan to hunt for Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida militants, may reduce their number after the country holds elections, the top US military officer said on Friday. Gen. Richard Myers, chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said a US force of 15,500 soldiers in Afghanistan was moving to uproot al-Qaida and its Taliban allies and head off violence ahead of September elections in Afghanistan. "We've ramped up our presence here a little bit anticipating and trying to ensure that we have no more violence as we head toward elections," Myers said after arriving in Kabul from Iraq for a first-hand look of military operations. *Reuters*

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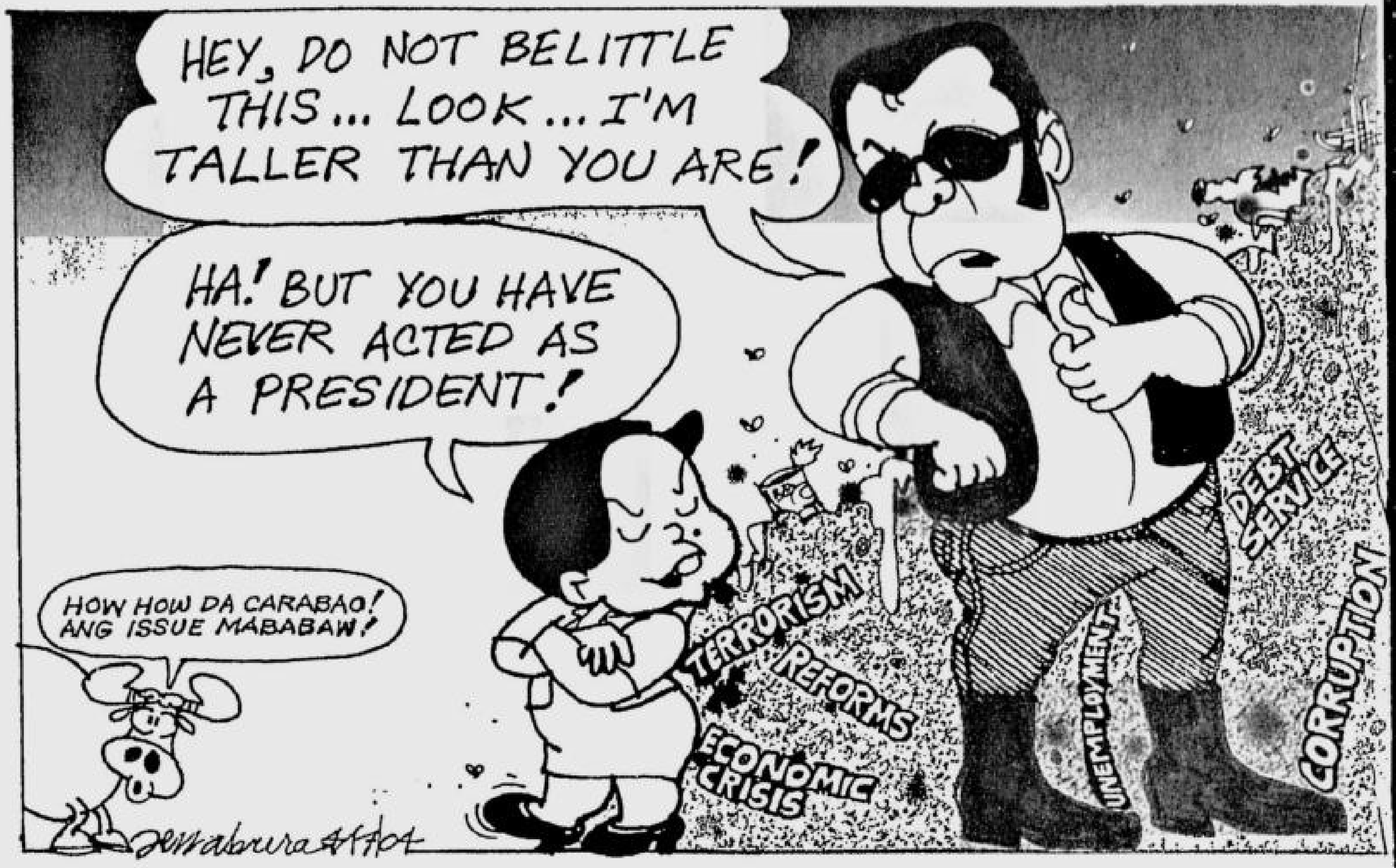
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REFORMS
ECONOMIC CRISIS
UNEMPLOYMENT
DEBT SERVICE
CORRUPTION

EDITORIALS

Let Bush sweat

BETTER late than never. American news organizations have started to hold US President George W. Bush to stricter account, and the news conference Bush conducted earlier this week (Tuesday night in Washington) provided the latest proof.

Unlike his closest ally, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Bush has never really had to defend his decision to invade Iraq in confrontational settings. While Blair moved might and main to make a case for the war on Iraq in a sometimes hostile Parliament and in no-holds-barred press briefings, Bush stuck to the staged and the scripted: a State of the Union Address here, a foreign policy speech there. And by and large, mainstream US media seemed reluctant to take Bush to task.

The unexpected success of the Democratic primaries in focusing attention on the deception that allowed the United States to wage war, however, has forced Bush to go on the defensive. Uncharacteristically, he has submitted himself to unfriendly questions in less-than-controlled environments. Hence, his disastrous appearance on Meet the Press last February, and then in last Tuesday's briefing.

As the Columbia Journalism Review noted after the news conference: "Journalists were less deferential and more insistent on pressing their questions, without seeming hostile, than we'd seen them in news conferences past. The Associated Press' Terence Hunt set the tone with the very first question, asking the president about critics' comparisons between Iraq and Vietnam; two questions later, Terry Moran of ABC asked the president to 'explain to Americans' how he got a number of claims about Iraq 'so wrong'."

Asked to name the "biggest mistake" he made after Sept. 11, 2001, Bush said he couldn't think of any off the top of his head. He added: "I'm sure something will pop into my head here in the midst of this press conference, all the pressure of trying to come up with an answer. But it hasn't yet."

"All the pressure of trying to come up with an answer." We are glad that the politician routinely described as the most powerful man in the world is beginning to feel the pressure to justify his decisions, to actually make a convincing case for them instead of only blithely going through the motions. We do not relish his obvious discomfort, but we note that it is the responsibility of the free press to hold a democracy's leaders to account.

In the Information Age, democracy must be understood as the **informed** consent of the governed. It is the leaders' solemn responsibility to explain policy; it is not enough that they deliver speeches and then decline questions.

So Bush is feeling the pressure "to come up with an answer." That's a good thing.

Get them out

THE DEBATE over the pullout of the Philippine humanitarian contingent to Iraq has assumed political color. But for once, using the specter of political risk to justify a change in policy is the right course, if the country is to avoid being haunted by unnecessary (but almost certain) loss of life.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has decided against a pullout, instead ordering Filipino civilians in Iraq to return home but ruling that Filipino peacekeeping forces stay on "for the time being." As a precaution, she has restricted the contingent to their camp and to the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad.

But administration Sen. Manuel Villar has warned the President that she was running a greater political risk in allowing Filipino soldiers and policemen to remain in Iraq while Iraqi attacks against the United States and its coalition allies intensify. Villar has put the matter plainly, and rather crudely: If the troops suffer casualties—a matter of probability, given the rash of violence against US targets and the kidnapping of foreigners allied with the United States—the incident will derail the President's "otherwise certain victory" in May.

If this argument will sway the President, well and good. The important thing is to get our troops out of harm's way.

Meralco again

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

MY good friend Monico Jacob and Jesus P. Francisco, president of Meralco, called on me last week to explain their side on the article I wrote last month about the disconnection of electrical service from my daughter's house. They said this was done for failure after written notice to pay the electric bill on time. I asked my son in-law about this, who insisted he had paid earlier than the date and time indicated by Meralco, when he was on an ad presentation, with witnesses to prove it. He could not show the receipt as the best evidence of his claim, however, and so I will have to accept Meralco's explanation. I'm sorry for the mix-up.

Of course, this does not excuse Meralco's other shortcomings like the complaint I related to them of my daughter's request to correct her middle initial in the company's registry of customers from S, as erroneously recorded, to L. She was told that her service would have to be disconnected and then reconnected, this time with the correct middle initial L. When she asked if there was a reconnection fee, she was told yes, and she would have to pay it. She got substantially the same answer when she said that, now that she was already married, she wanted her account changed under her husband's name. There was the reconnection fee again, also to be paid by the customer.

It is these little things that give the public impression that Meralco is a monopolistic entity that can do anything against its customers because of their helpless dependence upon it for their electric supply. (As Mr. Francisco promised, the change has been made with no reconnection fee.) As for the big things, one of them is the refund ordered by the Supreme Court of the company's overcharges which many people have not yet received, including all the seven separate households of my immediate family.

In fairness, however, I must say that Messrs. Francisco and Jacob, when they came to my house that morning, showed utmost civility and cordiality in explaining their side. Nick has been my friend for years, but that was the first time I met Mr. Francisco, and he proved to be a pleasant and humble person. I appreciated their visit, and I hope they did too. Meralco could vastly improve its public image with such tactful representatives as these two gentlemen.

Mr. Francisco's letter to me ends on this gracious note:

"We express our regret for the inconvenience this incident may have caused. To avoid a recurrence, and for your daughter's convenience, may we take this opportunity to offer other payment options for her consideration. These are: an automatic debit arrangement with accredited depository banks, on-line payment via the Internet, phone banking, payment to authorized Bayad Centers, and automatic charging through credit cards such as the Lumina Visa, Citibank and other major credit cards...

"Thank you for giving us an opportunity to present our side in this matter. Please be assured we will continue to be committed to serve our valued customers in the best way possible."

I hope other customers will consider the payment options suggested by Mr. Francisco for their convenience and principally to avoid misunderstandings that can cause power cut-offs and outraged feelings, justified or not. The reality is that we have to live with Meralco, like it or not, and we—meaning Meralco itself and its customers—should try to make this r tionship as pleasant or at least as tolerabl possible. Both parties should strive for *modus vivendi* for their mutual benefit.

I remember that Meralco used to be on the most popular public utilities in Ma before the war, when it also operated a line. There were only two bus lines then. other under the Pasay Transportation Meralco buses were painted orange (Me co orange, we used to say) and Pasay ch red. Meralco buses charged one cent more but Pasay buses were less conven and often overcrowded because t charged less. Meralco buses were clea and the service was better.

Every weekday my father rode in the M alco bus that took him from its terminal block away from our house to Plaza Sta. Cr from where he walked to his office along Escolta. He took the same route backward ter work. Many of the passengers wore w coat and tie and, yes, also felt or straw ha enjoyed accompanying my mother when prayed the novena to San Antonio at the Cruz church. Before he became rich and m or of Manila after the war, Ramon Bagats drove one of the Meralco buses in our rout

We also had streetcars then, also opera by Meralco, if I am not mistaken. Why when they were run by electricity? They w very efficient vehicles and we were disappo ed when they were phased out on advice some supposed traffic experts who proba only wanted to promote gasoline sales. Rid in the streetcars before was much more c fortable than taking the present-day jeepn that flout traffic rules at the risk of life and l and ordinary roadside courtesy.

I don't remember any complaint aga Meralco during those pre-war years and only hope it will regain the favor of its c tomers for its improved service and the pol ness of Messrs. Francisco and Jacob.

'Mud index'

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

SOME enterprising soul with time on her hands should try to come up with a "mud index" that would measure how dirty the conduct of a presidential election campaign has been, compared with, say, the previous three or four.

I'm not sure what the elements in such an index should be, and how they should be measured. Perhaps she should consider such characteristics as would capture not only the number of charges, direct or by innuendo, weighted by their relative outrageousness (the distance from the truth, or the probability of being manufactured out of whole cloth) or the gravity of the purported offense.

Of course, there would be problems, like how would sodomy compare with adultery (more, or less grave?), and how would these charges in turn compare with corruption. Or what would constitute small-time as opposed to world-class corruption. But one could (theoretically) apply scales ranging from 1 to 10 for outrageousness as well as assign arbitrary numbers corresponding to certain "offenses."

Hopefully, the resulting index would be easy to understand and simple to compute—something like the "misery index," which is the sum of a country's unemployment and inflation rates. A rough indicator, certainly. But pretty descriptive.

Without such an index, one really has no basis for saying that this campaign is dirtier or cleaner than earlier ones. But for sheer outrageousness, it would be hard to match some of the stories I've heard recently (told with relish, as if they were the absolute truth) about some of the candidates. They must be going around—perhaps even adverted to in some gossip columns—because given my relative social isolation, when I hear a story, chances are that everybody else has heard it.

Like the one linking the President and Mike Defensor. To hear it being told, this has been going on for about two months. So let's try to apply a putative "mud index." For gravity of the offense, on a scale of 1 to 10, adultery would, in the Philippine context, probably rate a 2. But in this case, it is aggravated, because the candidate is a woman (it is **not OK**, alas, for a woman to fool around, although that would be a ho-hum for a man). It is further aggravated by the cradle-snatching element—Gloria must be at least 25 years older than Mike D—which again would be a ho-hum were the man older than the woman. So for gravity, that would measure in the upper half of the scale.

Now for outrageousness. Again on a scale of 1 to 10, that's got to be pretty close to a 10. Aside from the President having at least 25 years on Mike, the fact is that Mike and her children were playmates, having grown up together as neighbors in Quezon City.

What's more, look at the timing of the "affair." This is supposed to have occurred right smack in the middle of the campaign (it has to be something like they looked at each other in the middle of a strategy session, and boom! there was love at 1,000th sight). Here is someone who is accused by her critics of going to any lengths to ensure her election, and at the same time they are ready to believe that she will risk all for "love." Hey, folks, either the lady is a cold, calculating witch or a hot-blooded, ready-to-lose-her-head wanton woman. One or the other, maybe. But both?

When I brought these "inconsistencies" up with my source, there was a silence, followed by, "Where there is smoke, there is fire." You can't win.

Actually, in December 2001, when I asked the President on television about her purp ed affairs, she told me afterwards, off-cam that there were even stories linking her Mike Defensor, whom she described as so one who grew up with her children. Thi show me how far people would go to sm her. So I guess its an old story with a n wrinkle.

How about the story about Raul Roco goes that when Sonia, Raul's wife, was bu for 36 hours under the rubble of a Baguio h that collapsed during the 1990 earthqu Raul, who was then counsel for San Miguel der the Soriano's, purportedly got them send earth-moving equipment to the site help dig for her. And when they got her out story goes, Raul dispatched the equipment, heeding of the fact that there were oth buried under the rubble. Showing, one sup es, his hard-heartedness or uncaringnes selfishness, take your pick.

I leave it up to the reader to make up t own mud index in this case. But it must be n ed that the story never came up until this c paign, which is almost 14 years after event.

About Eddie Villanueva, trying to smear has been extremely difficult, but it is not want of trying. The best that they have c up with is some story about questionable b ness dealings where he cheated prospec business associates of something close to P1 million. It might be believable, except the s was supposed to have occurred in 2001, here it is now 2004, and no case has b brought against him in court. It stret credulity that a group that had been cheate P100 million would take its own sweet t about seeking justice.

These cases are not to be confused with, the Kuratong Baleleng case against Pan Lacson, although Lacson wants us to bel that it is just black propaganda and poli harassment against him. But that would h to be the subject of another column.

Signs from above

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AT LAST Thursday's episode of GMA-7's "Debate," supporters of Raul Roco, Panfilo Lacson and Eddie Villanueva said they'll continue working for their candidates even if the surveys show they're lagging behind top contenders Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Fernando Poe Jr., because it was "the correct thing to do." They were understandably emotional as they cried *"walang iwanan,"* a battle cry popularized by Joseph Estrada's supporters in the dying days of his regime. But these supporters of the lagging candidates may be missing the point. As political analyst Alex Magno stressed in that TV show, "it's not a question of emotion but of using one's head." It's not a question, too, of who's the "lesser evil" between GMA and FPJ, but the fact that survey leader GMA needs to have a comfortable margin over her closest opponent in order for the country to attain peace and stability, preconditions for development.

* * *

This point was stressed by Senate President Franklin Drilon over a recent lunch to which he and wife Mila invited my husband and me for some "catching up on developments." He brought a clipping from the Asian Wall Street Journal of April 14, where columnist James Hookway argued that in order for the Philippines and its currency to stabilize, GMA must win comfortably over FPJ and her coalition has to secure control of the Senate. Hookway wrote that if these two developments take place in May, the peso could rebound to P54.05 to the dollar, compared to the P55.80 at last Tuesday's close. But if the opposition secures Senate control, then improvement would be slight: P55.24 to the dollar.

Hookway argued that without a Senate majority, the President "might find it hard to streamline and modernize the economy." Quoting analysts' opinion, he warned that a narrow victory over FPJ would suggest "that Ms Macapagal's new six-year term could be characterized by the same kind of vicious political infighting that has stymied the country over the past three years." If the voting is really close, he quoted a Bank of America official, "it could end up like Taiwan where the opposition is pushing for fresh elections," and such situation would make those Philippine Treasury bonds "a little less inviting than they might appear."

* * *

Analysts speak of a million or two million votes as the necessary "comfortable" lead GMA ought to have over FPJ. On the other hand, Drilon stressed that for her coalition to retain control of the Senate, it has to get a minimum of six K-4 senators elected, so that it could have a majority of 13 in the new Senate. But he stressed that electing seven or eight K-4 senators would be much better so that the majority won't be so razor-thin again. More than any one, Drilon has seen the disastrous consequences of the administration coalition's very tenuous hold in the last Senate, which resulted in the freezing of a number of critical bills such as the Transco bill.

* * *

At the moment, it seems like a 6-6 split between the K-4 and the KNP, or at best a 7-5 in favor of the K-4. Drilon worries about the fact that Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Robert Barbers, and K-4 candidate Orly Mercado hover in the twilight zone just below the Magic 12 in the latest Pulse Asia survey. He's aware of the discontent expressed by some K-4 senatorial candidates in a recent confrontation with GMA's political officer Conrado Limcaoco over what they perceive to be the "neglect" by the Palace of the senatorial candidates. But he attributes this "neglect" to the Palace preoccupation with the need to gain a lead over FPJ. But now that GMA is pulling away and a bandwagon is perceptible, says Drilon, perhaps it's time for the K-4 campaign to concentrate on helping the senatorial candidates pull up.

* * *

Drilon relates that when he first heard the announcement that Raul Roco was flying to the US for medical checkup, which analysts labeled a "defacto withdrawal" from the race, he was having lunch with LP president Florencio Abad, and his first reaction was, "Presidents are made in heaven." Later, he mused to me, *"Ang suwerte talaga nitong presidenteng ito."*

On the other hand, Biliran re-electionist Rep. Gerry Espina, in a recent conversation with me, recalled what he told Roco and 40 other former Constitutional Convention delegates in a get-together at Emil Ong's place last October. It was organized by Roco's friends among the former delegates to drum up support for him. Espina related that he advised Roco to "seek signs from above" and then proceeded to narrate what Manila Mayor Arsenio Lacson had told him after then Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay revealed his plan to run for president. RM had sent Senate President Amang Rodriguez to Lacson to broach the idea of his running as RM's vice president, and the mayor refused. Lacson later intimated to Espina, then working in the mayor's office, that Magsaysay looked so healthy, meaning, his vice president would have to wait so long. No, said Lacson, "I prefer to remain king of my small kingdom." As fate would have it, RM was killed in a plane crash and Vice President Carlos P. Garcia became president, while Lacson died as mayor.

* * *

Espina also recalled that when he was working with Don Chino Roces, Ninoy Aquino dropped by to visit Roces and later, he offered Espina a ride home. Stopping in front of Malacañang, Ninoy said he noticed that Espina was quite close to Don Chino. Said Ninoy: "Tell Don Chino not to support Gerry Roxas anymore in his aspirations to oppose President Marcos; *hindi sasabay 'yang si* Gerry *sa mga tao ni* Imelda *baril sa baril*.

Her 'first love' tried to kill her

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

From page A1

friends and associates as "Roby," with frustrated parricide.

With the filing, Melissa finally blew the lid off a case that would have exploded into the headlines in August last year had not, she believes, her husband's family succeeded in suppressing the information.

Melissa and her lawyers are tangling not just with her abusive husband but with the Martel family, a wealthy and socially prominent clan, and their network of connections. Roby's parents, especially his late mother Luz Puyat Martel, were said to have banked on their close connections with the Marcoses to build their fortune, based largely on the development of Harrison Plaza, one of the country's first shopping malls. Roby's sister Irene Martel Francisco, aside from her managing duties at Harrison Plaza, is also publisher of Philippine Tattler.

If the story Melissa now tells bears traces of soap opera, it's because, given the wide disparities in economic and social standing in Philippine society, and the way these disparities are exploited to influence the course of justice, the Philippines is really a "soap operatic" country.

To illustrate: A week after Melissa filed suit, a law firm representing "the owners of Harrison Plaza" denounced the suit, crying "pure harassment." The charge of frustrated parricide, said the lawyers, was "in anticipation of the charges to be filed against her for unlawfully taking possession of properties belonging to Mr. Martel and the Martel family." In other words, Melissa is accusing her husband of trying to kill her just to head off charges of theft.

What are the "properties" that the Martels now say Melissa stole from them? "Luckily, even if I had called ahead to say I was taking my personal belongings, I decided to take pictures of the items I took just in case they accused me of stealing other things," says Melissa, handing over a packet of photos. They show a box filled with plastic kitchenware, and plastic bags filled with magazines, and women's shoes, clothes and intimate apparel. Melissa's lawyer Howard Calleja noted that "should Roby and/or the Martel family pursue a case against Melissa for taking kitchenware, it would be more complete if they include the taking of her underwear as well."

Among the possible witnesses that Melissa's lawyers could call to the stand should the case go to trial would be two of her and Roby's three children: their daughter who walked in while Roby was beating up Melissa and witnessed the shooting, and their younger son, who was waiting in a car on the condominium building's driveway when she suddenly boarded the vehicle and asked to be brought to Makati Med. But chances are, say both Melissa and Calleja, that the children, who remain in Roby's custody, would refuse or not be allowed to testify. Melissa herself seems reluctant to drag her children into the legal struggle, and says her two youngsters are currently "in denial" and have always been terrified of their father. Melissa and Roby have another son, who is in his 20s and who works with the Martel family firm.

When asked if Melissa would be fighting for custody of the children, Calleja said they wanted to settle the issue of Roby's culpability for the shooting first, so as not to muddle the issue.

Other possible witnesses would be the bodyguards, but again, Melissa is not too optimistic about getting them to testify on her behalf. Even Castillo remains in Roby's employ.

* * *

EVEN before she set eyes on Roby Martel, Melissa says she had heard about him, specifically rumors that "he had his hair blow-dried everyday at Nomer's," at that time a big-name salon.

When she and Roby were both 17, they met in California. Roby's older sister Tonette was studying there and her parents had asked Melissa's parents, who were family friends, to look after her. They were married three years later. "He was my first love," Melissa now says, laughing when teased that she fell in love "with his blow-dried hair." By Melissa's own account, Roby is a charmer, gentle of manner to outsiders though not really as sociable or gregarious as his sisters.

Trouble and violence erupted pretty early in their marriage, and "twice or thrice," she says, she and Roby separated, which would explain the large gaps in their children's ages. Roby always had a violent temper, says Melissa. "He felt frustrated and controlled by his family, especially by his late mother," she says. "The trouble was, he could not vent his anger on them, so when he got home, he looked for the most convenient target—me."

In his paranoia, he hired bodyguards for their condominium unit, even if the building itself employs stringent security measures, and insisted that the bodyguards accompany them or the children wherever they went. He would also grill Melissa and the children on their whereabouts whenever they left the building.

* * *

LATELY, says Melissa, Roby had taken to accusing her of "foisting" a child on him after each reconciliation. On the afternoon of Aug. 26 last year, the day of the shooting, he seemed particularly annoyed at their younger son, peeved that the boy and Melissa had gone to the US Embassy to get a student's visa because the boy and his sister were going to study in the States.

When the two children left to say goodbye to their classmates, Roby, who had been drinking, apparently got one of the bodyguards' guns then shot at his son's play station tapes. After firing another shot, he entered the room where Melissa was watching TV and began choking her. He dragged her onto a bed, straddled her, pinned her down and slapped and hit her repeatedly. He then got off her, dragged her to the living room and ordered her to cut out her youngest child from all the family pictures. When Melissa moved too slowly, Roby dragged her by the hair to the kitchen. At this point their daughter walked in on them.

Seeing his daughter, Roby ordered the bodyguards to bring Melissa to their bedroom, but when Melissa begged them not to, explaining that "I really feared he would kill me that time," the guards simply let her stand with her back to the refrigerator. It was at this point that Roby approached her and shot her in the abdomen.

Postscript to the Passion

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

HAVING gone through 10 dozen critiques of Mel Gibson's unusual blockbuster, "The Passion of the Christ," (it may be that moviegoers are bored senseless by now with all those buttocks, boobs and birdies) and decidedly feeling left out, I see no reason why I shouldn't inflict another one on you, dear reader.

Having spent 18 years of my youth behind convent walls with frequent days of recollection and once-a-year three-day retreats (pre-Vatican II at that), the passion of Christ was something I unfortunately took for granted. (Both my mom and dad had this little book called "Luz y Consuelo del Alma" on their night tables and I'm sure it wasn't anything like Elizabeth George mysteries. It was just another world.)

There was this Lenten retreat where Fr. James Reuter, S.J. presented to us, then little *colegialas*, images of hell—fire and the devil—in pure theater form. We did not realize it then. But he did frighten those of us who hadn't read Dante's Inferno; and, in fact, into our adulthood and old age, we remain scared witless of God's wrath. Which, thinking about it, may not be a bad thing after all, if it kept us from committing crimes like bank robberies and so on. It didn't seem to have helped too much in the adultery department, but that's another story.

Having finished with the introduction, let me continue by enlightening you on the subject of the Passion as theater. Sometime in the 5th century the Church clamped down on secular drama, which made the Church funny in a way. It took another 500 years before something called "tropes" was introduced during the wordless phases of the Holy Mass. The earliest known "tropes" evolved from the Easter service and was called *Quem Quaeritis*. This early version consists of three lines:

Angels: "Whom do you seek in the tomb, O Worshippers of Christ?"

Worshippers: "Jesus the Nazarene, the Crucified, O Heavenly Beings."

Angels: "He is not here; He has risen, just as He predicted. Go and announce that He has risen from the tomb."

Soon liturgical dramas were being sung in churches across Europe.

It took another two to three hundred years before these developed into full-length plays. Soon they were being performed in the churchyards, having grown too large to be performed inside the church. In the 13th century, the Pope banned the clergy from acting on public stages and the laity took over. After another hundred years, drama guilds sprung up, writing, directing and producing mystery plays based on biblical stories but with touches of local color that the locals could identify with.

There were also dramatized sermons called morality plays where personification was used a lot. For instance, the hero was known as Everyman, etc. (Some of you may or may not remember Piers Plowman.) These dramas generally went hand in hand with religious processions. One imagines that our Santacruzan is part of that grand tradition of the Catholic world. The Reformation and the Counter Reformation in the 16th century put an end to all these street plays.

You might think of these dramas as an effort to portray, understand and present the crucifixion of Christ especially at a time when there was no public school system and most people were illiterates. It is believed that between the 11th and 15th centuries, there was a shift in the emphasis of Catholic teachings—from the divinity of Christ to His humanity, although I would imagine no one then going around, referring to the Mother of God as Mama Mary—Praise the Lord. But it also explains why the Christ on the crucifix after this period is "erect, alive and indifferent to suffering" because He is the Resurrected God, triumphant over death, not a victim.

Several of the commentators mentioned that (aside from the almost sadistic presentation of His suffering) Gibson's emphasis is on Calvary. Presumably, this is where artistic freedom comes in. This is Gibson's interpretation and vision. Since he is both the producer and director, one is obliged to grant him validity even if you don't agree with him. In this age of instant gratification and denial—of age, suffering, illness and other common unpleasant subjects not discussed at the dinner table—we are loath to see graphically what exactly torture does to the human body or why it is necessary to dwell on it. Not everyone was brought up on pre-Vatican II ideas and images, and therefore not everyone is used to the notion (except intellectually, perhaps) that the Son of God, Christ, had to suffer horribly for our sins. The monstrosity of sin as understood by a painter such as Brueghel may be very distant from the thinking of those who explain away evil as either something that doesn't exist or an invention of sick minds.

Having said that mouthful, I have to add that I did watch the DVD (ironically committing a sin, so to speak, since the DVD was a pirated intellectual property) with two other persons, one of whom was bored enough to leave the room.

As piece of theater, I think Gibson's movie was excellent. Think of it as high drama and you get the idea. If you wish to think of it on purely religious terms, that's your prerogative. Does it foment hatred toward the Jews? No more than Othello I would imagine. No one I know has mentioned any untoward feelings and if Paul Newman is Jewish, then so sorry, I have absolutely no negative emotions.

(Data from Steve Sampson, "How the Christian Church Resurrected Western Drama.")

Getting a life

YOUNG BLOOD

Medilyn Mañibo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT was pure and simple sympathy and sadness that swept over me when I learned through a friend's text message that Leyma Fortu, our friend and high school classmate, was dead. The message stated no reason for her death; it only asked me to pray for her soul. I thought that she had been killed in some freak accident or died of some incurable illness. I told myself we all had to die and it was just too bad that death came to her so soon. So I silently said my prayers and did not ask any questions.

Later that night, I got hold of the Sunday newspapers and there it hit me in the face, the reality that I had not been seeing. She had been killed in cold blood. The INQUIRER said she was a public school teacher and an officer of the human rights organization Karapatan. Then the enormity of the tragedy dawned on me. I knew the person. She was a classmate that I didn't know anymore.

Later another friend asked me if I knew those who were murdered recently in Mindoro. I could only remember Leyma. She used to be the bridge between her cousin to me, handing me his love notes and roses. I also recalled that she had led our class in performing an interpretative dance during a field demonstration for a crowd of visiting athletes. And that was not even 10 years ago.

I recalled the times we spent as students of the Jose J. Leido National High School, those lovely and funny days when we were just discovering that there was a life outside our homes. We discovered a lot about each other's nature and laughed at each other's pranks. In one subject we proved that our own minds could work and in another we found out that passing was not so difficult when we copied each other's assignments.

Leyma was nice and I knew she had a strong heart even then. She was the one who taught me tolerance. She knew I didn't like her cousin and that being bothered by boys I didn't like pissed me off. But she told me to be kind to him; he was just expressing his feelings after all.

Now I can't express well enough my grief over losing her. I have lost someone I have known since the time when we had no idea of what we are up against. It's hard to describe the kind of sadness you feel over the loss of someone who had been close to you once, especially someone who had a big heart like Leyma.

I lost track of her after we graduated from high school. No matter how often the members of our class gathered for reunions, somehow we missed seeing each other.

A few of our classmates are now married. Some have gone to law school. Some got employed in the local government. Many tried their luck in Manila, working in factories, in accounting firms, in engineering and construction. But Leyma obviously took a different road.

After her death, I realized that she had chosen to go out there and work for the disadvantaged. She died in a hail of bullets pursuing her beliefs. And she was ready for it.

Suddenly I realized how petty were my concerns and my complaints about life. Maybe the cause of her death is far too complicated for me and the rest of our classmates to understand. Maybe it had to do with politics or whatever. But the violence says a lot to me. I do not presume to speak for our classmates, much less for the youth, but I don't think I will ever be able to accept that she deserved to die.

I don't know if one can have a meaningful life by following the exhortation of some to live and let live. I have not yet settled the question of what I should do for the rest of it. But I know for sure that I ought to find a life, be it small or big, and Leyma should have been allowed to find it, too.

Medilyn Mañibo, 25, works for a government information agency and is trying to finish her master's in international studies at the University of the Philippines.

Fighting back tears

Julian Comines Sy

THERE was a white coffin. Half of it was open. Bars painted gold were attached to its sides. I looked inside. There was a body. It was my grandmother's. On top of the coffin was a 60-year-old painting of her, and about a thousand flowers.

We were in a medium-sized room, which looked strangely like a church. I looked up to the balcony, where there was a black grand piano. There was an odd figure playing, and he looked vaguely familiar. His playing was like a quiet whisper, sad and lonely.

I looked at the wooden seats, filled with dozens of people who had only known my grandmother for two weeks, after meeting her at church. Almost everyone was wearing white and black. One kid was wearing long shorts and a shirt.

Again I looked at the coffin and surveyed the room. A small choir had started singing, but the songs were not sad—they sounded joyful. It was like listening to a flower, bright and joyful.

The choir was singing joyful songs, but the eyes of its members were filled with tears. Those tears were both of sadness and joy: sadness over the death of a loved one but joy because the loved one was on her way to heaven.

I wanted to cry like everyone else, but the tears just would not come out. I tried to feel sad like most of the people, but I couldn't. Trying to feel sad was like fighting a lion with nothing more than a stick. It was so hard that I gave up all too soon.

I heard someone announcing, "The program is about to begin. Please take your seats."

I sat next to a cousin, who, from the look of his eyes, was trying to be sad too. We listened to all the speeches delivered by my uncles and aunts.

After the program, we went to the burial site. It was as peaceful as a breeze along the ocean shore. I saw a lot people crying, although the kids were not. I was just sitting down, watching Grandma being lowered into the ground. When her coffin touched bottom, I heard a loud sound that made me jump out of my seat. It was being made by a big machine that was pushing dirt on top of my grandmother.

I still couldn't cry, but it was becoming easier to feel sad. Instead of a lion, I was facing a rabbit, which was much easier to conquer.

When everything was done, we went back to our cars ready to go home. That was when I started to cry, because then I knew that was the last time I had seen Grandma in person.

I noticed that other people were starting to cry too, including my cousins. I was trying to keep my tears from falling, but it was like looking for a needle in a haystack.

The moment we got home, I stopped crying. I was back to being my old self again, playing video games and soccer.

Julian Comines Sy, 11, is in 7th grade at the John Adams Middle School in Edison, New Jersey.

LETTERS

IDs will neither stop terrorism nor criminality

THIS refers to a news item regarding the imposition of mandatory IDs for Muslims in Metro Manila. (PDI, 3/22/04) This measure is a flagrant violation of the Constitution which President Macapagal-Arroyo has a sworn duty to uphold at all times. The Supreme Court spoke on this matter when it nullified as illegal the administrative order issued by then President Fidel V. Ramos, mandating a National ID System.

A few days earlier, Ms Macapagal was in Muslim Mindanao, promising to uplift the lives of Muslims and protect their rights. Now comes this "outrightly silly and insane" plan as described by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel. The announcement was even timed with the arrival of an international monitoring team from Malaysia that was here to lay the groundwork for the coming peace talks between the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Is the government sincere in resolving the conflict in the south? Is it serious with its application for observer status at the Organization of the Islamic Conference?

The theory that IDs will prevent terrorism holds no water. No amount of IDs can substitute for better and effective police work. Besides, why single out the Muslims? The Oakwood mutineers will attest that the bombings in Davao City that killed innocent civilians were the handiwork of somebody else. And it's the New People's Army that has the expertise in blasting government property. How about those notorious criminals who commit heinous crimes almost daily? Scalawags in police uniforms? Hoodlums in robes? Drug lords, kidnappers and their coddlers? Plunderers and raiders of national coffers? Did anybody ask what religion they belong to, so that their corresponding Sect IDs can be issued, too?

The suggestion that self-anointed—not elected—Muslim leaders volunteered to adopt the ID system is of no consequence. They cannot compromise the constitutional rights of the other members of the Muslim communities.

For this country to move, Malacañang should be sensitive and prudent in the exercise of its vast powers. Double-speak and the trampling and trifling of the fundamental rights of any sector of our society are not the best way to lead this country.

It must, likewise, be emphasized that the end does not justify the means. What we need is an honest, sincere and healing leadership with a lot of common sense.

We have suffered too much already, and we are still suffering from all kinds of wars and discriminations foisted on us for generations. Please give us some breathing space!

—ZABEDIN M. AZIS,
Fairview, Quezon City

Thought-provoking cartoon

CONGRATULATIONS for yet another brilliant editorial cartoon of Jess Abrera in the INQUIRER on March 14, 2004 depicting the aging world population because of declining fertility rate. Abrera's current and very relevant illustrations always tell volumes of words as to what is actually happening today. Hopefully, our leaders will wake up, stop politicking and get down to work.

As you go up on an airplane, you'd see vast lands of the country, idle and untended and you'd wonder what population explosion some people are complaining about. We need people to tend to these lands and make them productive and in the process help the people in the countryside earn a decent living, instead of crowding in urban areas that offer no jobs. Given a proper economic climate conducive to business activities, our vast population resources can be very productive right here in our own country more than they can even be abroad.

How can we make our leaders realize and admit that, indeed, graft and corruption is the root cause of poverty in the country and not the convenient excuse of the so-called population explosion? I haven't applied for an immigrant visa abroad because I still believe that there are still many unselfish good men and women around willing to lead this country out of the rut we are in now, to a brighter future for our children.

These are the thoughts that come to my mind as I read the editorial cartoon of the INQUIRER on a bright Sunday morning, after attending Holy Mass, jogging around the park and having breakfast with my family. The Philippines is still a beautiful place to live in. How I wish that the people who run it are just as true and beautiful.

Please have more people of Abrera's caliber liven up our day. We look forward to seeing more of his thought-provoking editorial cartoons. Keep up the good work.

—CHING D. AUNARIO,
15 Panay St.,
Philamlife Village,
Las Piñas City

Protect Filipinos from 'foul' invitations to US

THIS is in relation to the article of Jerome Aning titled "Albert, Powell discuss security, telecoms row" published in the INQUIRER's March 29 issue.

The controversy involved the serving by American authorities of subpoenas to about 30 Filipino telecom executives who were invited to attend a telecom conference in Hawaii last January. They were charged with violation of US anti-trust laws. It was reported that the manner by which the legal processes were enforced by the US authorities was uncalled for.

The point we wish to raise is that the Philippine government should stress a strong point against the US authorities on the manner Filipinos, who are invited abroad for an international conference, are suddenly presented, while in their hotel rooms, with summonses or subpoenas to appear and testify before a grand jury. This is not an isolated event.

The firm's client, George Schulze Sr., as well as his son, George Schulze Jr., and business associates, were also victims of this unwarranted aggression, allegedly for violation of the US anti-trust law. The attempt to serve the processes was likewise done at the annual convention of the House Hold Goods Forwarders Association in 1992 at San Diego, California, while our client was in the bathroom taking a shower.

To make a long story short, our client as well as the other defendants, were charged before the 9th District Court of California through the complaint filed by the US Department of Justice. The case was subsequently dismissed, despite an appeal by the US authorities with the appellate court. Thus, the case of "United States vs Tucor International et al." [Criminal Case No. 92-0425-DLJ (NDCA)] enriched the jurisprudence of the US legal system at the expense of Filipino victims.

Sad to note, however, that the Philippine government has yet to realize that there appears to be a perpetuity of similar incidents and the Philippine authorities' inadequacy to protect Filipinos from these surreptitious US-based charges for alleged violations of American laws after having been invited to the United States to attend international conferences.

Perhaps Foreign Secretary Delia Albert can raise the issue with the US government and, if possible, secure an assurance that the Filipinos who were falsely charged would somehow get compensated for all the damage and humiliation they suffered in connection with the "invitation" by the arresting authorities.

—CONSTANTINO L. NAVARRO III,
Suite 1504, The Centerpoint Condominium,
Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Right to know why water supply is threatened

I AGREE with your columnist, Juan L. Mercado ("Water brawls," PDI, 3/25/04) that for ordinary people like us, our main concern is how to get clean, potable water 24 hours a day at the least cost.

When this supply is threatened, however, it is also our concern to know why such thing happened.

Our need for water for survival, however, does not distract us from swatting at people who threaten our supply of the vital substance. Thus, Sen. Loren Legarda is merely protecting us consumers when she exposed the sweetheart deal between Malacañang and Maynilad.

It is still within her concern for consumers to expose the deal that would pass on Maynilad's P8 billion debt to the government, to be borne eventually by taxpayers like us. As the Asian Development Bank study quoted by Mercado aptly revealed, Manila Water Co. in the east zone is operating smoothly, while Maynilad is failing due to its bad management. Why should consumers like us suffer for Maynilad's financial mismanagement and even tax us further to pay for Maynilad's debts?

—BENJAMIN TAGLE,
855 Dr. A. Santos Ave.
cor Kabesang Segundo St.,
Sucat, Parañaque City

ERRATUM

In the INQUIRER's Letters Section yesterday, April 16, 2004, Dr. Elmer Jacinto was inadvertently referred to as Dr. "Emil" Jacinto. Our sincerest apologies.—Ed.

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LETTERS

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THIS refers to a news item regarding the imposition of mandatory IDs for Muslims in Metro Manila. (PDI, 3/22/04) This measure is a flagrant violation of the Constitution which President Macapagal-Arroyo has a sworn duty to uphold at all times. The Supreme Court spoke on this matter when it nullified as illegal the administrative order issued by then President Fidel V. Ramos, mandating a National ID System.

A few days earlier, Ms Macapagal was in Muslim Mindanao, promising to uplift the lives of Muslims and protect their rights. Now comes this "outrightly silly and insane" plan as described by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel. The announcement was even timed with the arrival of an international monitoring team from Malaysia that was here to lay the groundwork for the coming peace talks between the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Is the government sincere in resolving the conflict in the south? Is it serious with its application for observer status at the Organization of the Islamic Conference?

The theory that IDs will prevent terrorism holds no water. No amount of IDs can substitute for better and effective police work. Besides, why single out the Muslims? The Oakwood mutineers will attest that the bombings in Davao City that killed innocent civilians were the handiwork of somebody else. And it's the New People's Army that has the expertise in blasting government property. How about those notorious criminals who commit heinous crimes almost daily? Scalawags in police uniforms? Hoodlums in robes? Drug lords, kidnappers and their coddlers? Plunderers and raiders of national coffers? Did anybody ask what religion they belong to, so that their corresponding Sect IDs can be issued, too?

The suggestion that self-anointed—not elected—Muslim leaders volunteered to adopt the ID system is of no consequence. They cannot compromise the constitutional rights of the other members of the Muslim communities.

For this country to move, Malacañang should be sensitive and prudent in the exercise of its vast powers. Double-speak and the trampling and trifling of the fundamental rights of any sector of our society are not the best way to lead this country.

It must, likewise, be emphasized that the end does not justify the means. What we need is an honest, sincere and healing leadership with a lot of common sense.

We have suffered too much already, and we are still suffering from all kinds of wars and discriminations foisted on us for generations. Please give us some breathing space!

—ZABEDIN M. AZIS,
Fairview, Quezon City

Thought-provoking cartoon

CONGRATULATIONS for yet another brilliant editorial cartoon of Jess Abrera in the INQUIRER on March 14, 2004 depicting the aging world population because of declining fertility rate. Abrera's current and very relevant illustrations always tell volumes of words as to what is actually happening today. Hopefully, our leaders will wake up, stop politicking and get down to work.

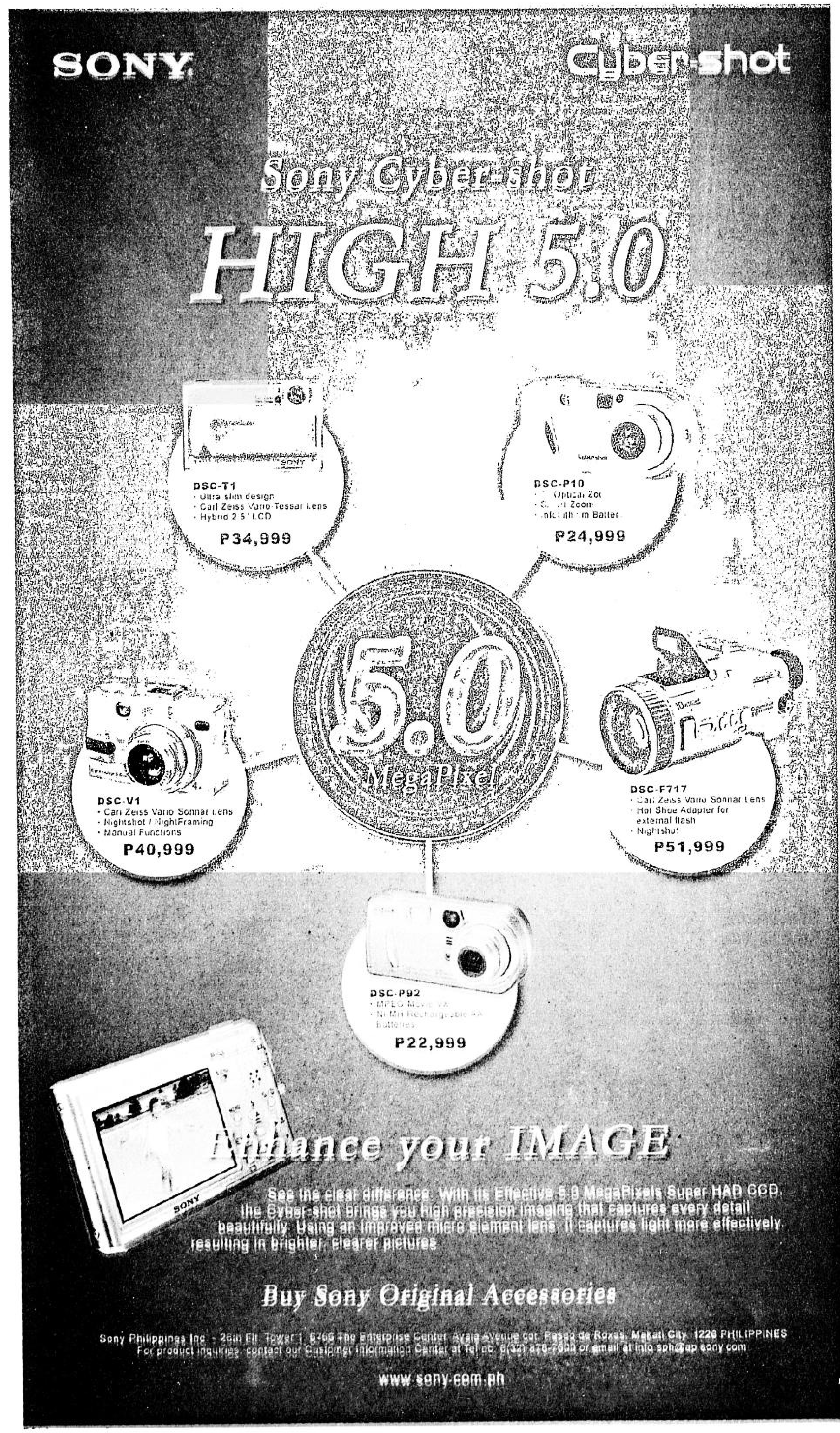
As you go up on an airplane, you'd see vast lands of the country, idle and untended and you'd wonder what population explosion some people are complaining about. We need people to tend to these lands and make them productive and in the process help the people in the countryside earn a decent living, instead of crowding in urban areas that offer no jobs. Given a proper economic climate conducive to business activities, our vast population resources can be very productive right here in our own country more than they can even be abroad.

How can we make our leaders realize and admit that, indeed, graft and corruption is the root cause of poverty in the country and not the convenient excuse of the so-called population explosion? I haven't applied for an immigrant visa abroad because I still believe that there are still many unselfish good men and women around willing to lead this country out of the rut we are in now, to a brighter future for our children.

These are the thoughts that come to my mind as I read the editorial cartoon of the INQUIRER on a bright Sunday morning, after attending Holy Mass, jogging around the park and having breakfast with my family. The Philippines is still a beautiful place to live in. How I wish that the people who run it are just as true and beautiful.

Please have more people of Abrera's caliber liven up our day. We look forward to seeing more of his thought-provoking editorial cartoons. Keep up the good work.

—CHING D. AUNARIO,
15 Panay St.,
Philamlife Village,
Las Piñas City



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Protect Filipinos from 'foul' invitations to US

THIS is in relation to the article of Jerome Aning titled "Albert, Powell discuss security, telecoms row" published in the INQUIRER's March 29 issue.

The controversy involved the serving by American authorities of subpoenas to about 30 Filipino telecom executives who were invited to attend a telecom conference in Hawaii last January. They were charged with violation of US anti-trust laws. It was reported that the manner by which the legal processes were enforced by the US authorities was uncalled for.

The point we wish to raise is that the Philippine government should stress a strong point against the US authorities on the manner Filipinos, who are invited abroad for an international conference, are suddenly presented, while in their hotel rooms, with summonses or subpoenas to appear and testify before a grand jury. This is not an isolated event.

The firm's client, George Schulze Sr., as well as his son, George Schulze Jr., and business associates, were also victims of this unwarranted aggression, allegedly for violation of the US anti-trust law. The attempt to serve the processes was likewise done at the annual convention of the House Hold Goods Forwarders Association in 1992 at San Diego, California, while our client was in the bathroom taking a shower.

To make a long story short, our client as well as the other defendants, were charged before the 9th District Court of California through the complaint filed by the US Department of Justice. The case was subsequently dismissed, despite an appeal by the US authorities with the appellate court. Thus, the case of "United States vs Tucor International et al." [Criminal Case No. 92-0425-DLJ (NDCA)] enriched the jurisprudence of the US legal system at the expense of Filipino victims.

Sad to note, however, that the Philippine government has yet to realize that there appears to be a perpetuity of similar incidents and the Philippine authorities' inadequacy to protect Filipinos from these surreptitious US-based charges for alleged violations of American laws after having been invited to the United States to attend international conferences.

Perhaps Foreign Secretary Delia Albert can raise the issue with the US government and, if possible, secure an assurance that the Filipinos who were falsely charged would somehow get compensated for all the damage and humiliation they suffered in connection with the "invitation" by the arresting authorities.

—CONSTANTINO L. NAVARRO III,
Suite 1504, The Centerpoint Condominium,
Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Right to know why water supply is threatened

I AGREE with your columnist, Juan L. Mercado ("Water brawls," PDI, 3/25/04) that for ordinary people like us, our main concern is how to get clean, potable water 24 hours a day at the least cost.

When this supply is threatened, however, it is also our concern to know why such thing happened.

Our need for water for survival, however, does not distract us from swatting at people who threaten our supply of the vital substance. Thus, Sen. Loren Legarda is merely protecting us consumers when she exposed the sweetheart deal between Malacañang and Maynilad.

It is still within her concern for consumers to expose the deal that would pass on Maynilad's P8 billion debt to the government, to be borne eventually by taxpayers like us. As the Asian Development Bank study quoted by Mercado aptly revealed, Manila Water Co. in the east zone is operating smoothly, while Maynilad is failing due to its bad management. Why should consumers like us suffer for Maynilad's financial mismanagement and even tax us further to pay for Maynilad's debts?

—BENJAMIN TAGLE,
855 Dr. A. Santos Ave.
cor Kabesang Segundo St.,
Sucat, Parañaque City

ERRATUM

In the INQUIRER's Letters Section yesterday, April 16, 2004, Dr. Elmer Jacinto was inadvertently referred to as Dr. "Emil" Jacinto. Our sincerest apologies —Ed.

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Bet's group ambushed; 3 aides slain

LEGAZPI CITY—Four still unidentified men ambushed the group of a candidate for Congress in the third district of Masbate while attending a town fiesta at about midnight yesterday in Sitio Trangkahan, Barangay Nabangig, Balanas, Masbate, killing three and wounding two supporters.

Senior Supt. Romeo Mapalo, Masbate police director, identified the victims as Rey Yanzon, Vivencio Abarte and Erza Lihaylihay. Wounded were Pio Manatad and Boyet Samson.

He also identified the candidate as Rizalina Seachon, sister of incumbent Congressman Fortus Seachon.

According to Mapalo, Seachon was unhurt in the ambush.

The attack happened while the group of Seachon was already planning to leave the town fiesta.

"It seems now that the violent activities related to election in Masbate is on its peak. This is purely political rivalry since the candidates for Congress belong to known political families in Masbate. This is going to be tough for us, so we're now deploying additional troops for hot pursuit operations against the cúlprits," Mapalo said.

The politicians Mapalo was referring to are Olga Kho, Abay Kho and Rizalina Seachon.

According to Mapalo, Olga and Abay are cousins of the incumbent Gov. Antonio Kho.

Congressman Fortus Seachon is now running for governor of Masbate against Kho.

"Undersecretary Mario Espinosa has already coordinated with us in running against the culprits in the continuous and successive killings in this province," Mapalo said.

The camps of Seachon and Kho refused to comment on the attack.

But Mapalo said he believed that politics was indeed behind the ambush.

Candidates have become more vulnerable to attacks, especially from New People's Army rebels, as the elections draw near.

In Davao Oriental, suspected communist guerrillas ambushed the Army escorts of reelectionist Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil in a hinterland village in Baganga town last week.

Reports coming from the Philippine Army's 30th Special Forces Company based in Baganga identified the wounded soldier as Sgt. Isaiahs Gaboy of the 8th Special Forces Battalion.

The Army men went to Barangay Campawan to "clear" the area as Palma Gil was scheduled to arrive there at around 3 p.m. for a campaign sortie. The ambush happened at around 2:30 p.m.

The soldiers were able to put up a fight which lasted for about 30 minutes. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau with a report from Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE CAMPAIGN for actor Fernando Poe Jr. has become an uphill climb like the stairs he took to the campaign stage in Lupon, Davao Oriental under tight security. EDWIN BACASMAS/PDI PHOTO

FPJ assailed for 'shabby treatment' of bet for gov

VIGAN CITY—Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. and his group drew flak from their local leaders and supporters for meeting with former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and his brother, Vice Gov. Jeremias Singson, here this week.

"It was too much. We were supposed to be their hosts but we were treated unfairly," said KNP gubernatorial candidate Efren Rafanan.

Chavit, a close friend of Poe, is a well-known supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo, while Jeremias was appointed KNP provincial chair by Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay.

But the Singsons shrugged off the complaints of Rafanan and his supporters.

"I have the right and personality to join the KNP as I have personal talks with Poe and Sen. Vicente Sotto III regarding it. And I have an appointment paper to show," Jeremias Singson told the INQUIRER.

He said he considers Poe a brother and is supporting his candidacy.

"They still do not know the ins and outs of politics," Chavit Singson said.

Jeremias Singson clarified, however, he was supporting Poe and some KNP senatorial candidates and his brother Chavit, who is running against Rafanan.

Jeremias and his group succeeded in leading the KNP campaign sortie after they made a courtesy call on Archbishop Edmundo Abaya at the Archbishop Palace of Nueva Segovia.

A disgusted Rafanan left the palace with most of his candidates and supporters on seeing Singson with Poe. "It was too much, *sobrang kabastusan na ito,*" Rafanan said.

KNP senatorial candidates Jinggoy Estrada and Didagen Dilangalen were the first to leave the palace and proceed to Ilocos Norte. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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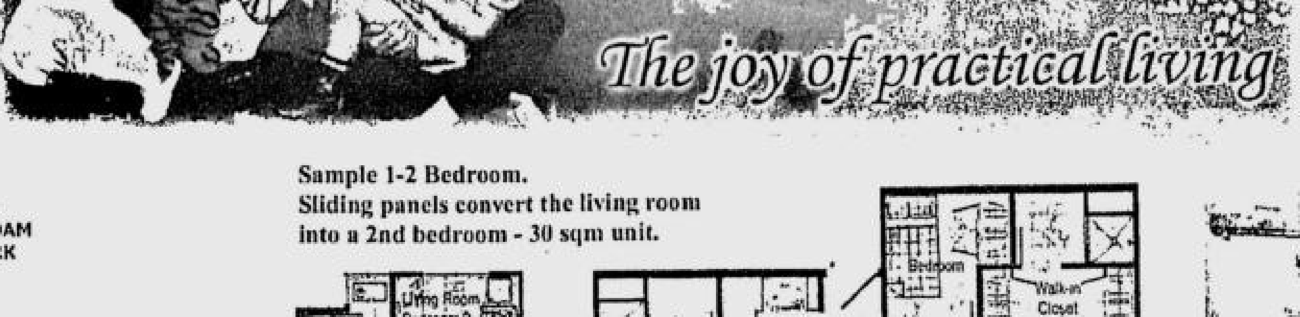
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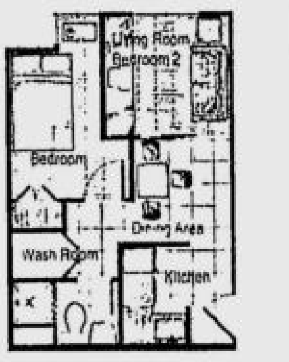

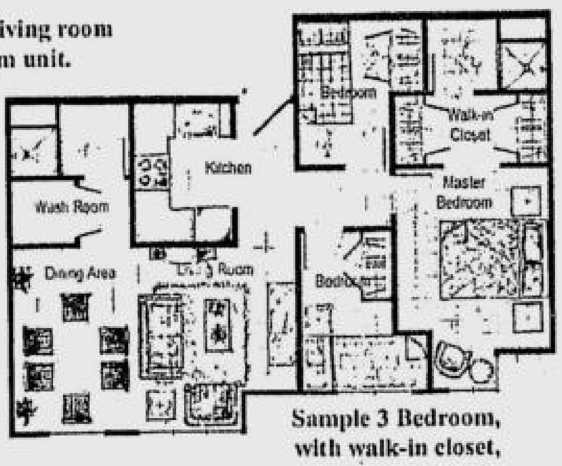

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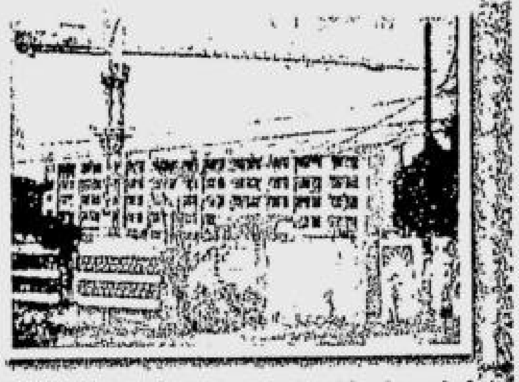

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Eagle bred in captivity to find new home in wild

DAVAO CITY—The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) here would release to the wild the first ever eagle bred in captivity on Earth Day.

"Kabayan," a 4.05 kilograms male eagle, aged one-year and five-months-old, would be freed at the Philippine National Oil Corp. (PNOC) reservation area on Mt. Apo in Kidapawan, North Cotabato on April 22.

PEF communications officer Tatit Quiblat, said they are excited about Kabayan's release because it would be the first time that a bird bred in captivity would be put to the wild.

Kabayan, a product of artificial insemination, is expected to adapt to his new habitat.

To help the bird prepare for his new environment, Kabayan has been living in a cage near the release site for about two weeks now and is being served a healthy diet of chicken or rabbit.

Quiblat said experts would be monitoring the progress and development of the eagle in the wild through a "back pack" radio transmitter, which he would be carrying for at least six months.

If the release would prove to be successful, the PEF would release other eagles in captivity to help boost the country's sagging eagle population.

The number of eagles in the wild is not actually determined but experts put it at about 500 pairs. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'HECTIC SCHEDULE'

GMA son no-show at poll info program

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—If President Macapagal-Arroyo shunned the presidential debate last Tuesday, her son Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo did not attend a voters' education program on Thursday.

Mikey was absent in the taping here of the "Ang Plataporma Ko" episode for congressional candidates in all four districts of Pampanga.

The President's eldest son, who is just on his first term as vice governor, is running in the second district, the purported bailiwick of the Macapagals.

He said he excused himself from the taping because his campaign schedule was "too loaded" and that his coordinators, not he, had the final say on his daily activities.

This happened even as the invitation was sent last March 24. A copy of the questions that candidates were required to answer was given at least three days before the taping, according to Maureen Aquino, general manager of Infomax.8, the community TV channel of the Satellite Cable Network that spearheaded the program.

The program is the first of its kind in Pampanga, where there are almost a million voters. The Commission on Elections in Central Luzon supervises the show.

Its three episodes feature mayoral candidates in the capital city of San Fernando and the congressional and gubernatorial aspirants.

The first episode was simultaneously aired and replayed on Infomax.8, dwRW-FM 95.1, Prosat's Channel 3, Sattlink's Channel 12, Datelsat's Channel 17 and on Broadcable's Channel 6 and 20 starting April 12.

Mikey's rival, Rey Lapid of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, was also absent, bolstering reports that he had backed out from the race.

Reelectionist Rep. Francis Nepomuceno and Janel Lazatin, his opponent in the first district, also begged off.

It was the same for Board Member Ferdinand Labung, (third district), actor Tony Ferrer and Telecommunications Assistant Secretary Rene Maglanque (fourth district).

Lawyer Antonio Jamon, one of the show's hosts, lamented their absences, noting that "Ang Plataporma Ko" was conceived to uphold the right of voters to information on the candidates.

Team to finish voters' list in tampered machine

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Commission on Elections in Western Visayas has created a task force to speed up the completion of the voters' list in Talisay City, Negros Occidental following the tampering of two Data Capturing Machines (DCMs) in the city's Comelec office.

Victor Gaborne, Comelec regional director, also ordered the immediate transfer of two Comelec officers from Talisay pending results of the investigation conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Acting Talisay election officer Susan Araiza was re-assigned to Valladolid town, Negros Occidental. Alegre Trunio, election assistant in Talisay, was transferred to the Comelec provincial office.

Both Araiza and Trunio had denied any involvement in the deletion of the master file of the voters' list stored in the DCM and in the opening of another DCM.

Gaborne said both Araiza and Trunio are also under investigation for poor performance after they failed to meet the Feb. 29 deadline to complete the voters' list.

Araiza would be replaced by Luz Hilario, who would head the task force created to ensure that the voters' list was completed by April 25 as ordered by the Comelec *en banc*.

The task force members were Purita Ferrer and Phoebus Teruel, election officers of Manapla and E. B. Magallona towns respectively.

Other election officials will also help them in cleaning up the Talisay voters list, Gaborne said.

The master file of the voters' list was discovered deleted from the DCM last Tuesday. Another DCM was also forcibly opened.

The DCMs are computers that capture the pictures and personal information of voters to be placed in the list of voters.

Ecija townsfolk thank Gordon for help in fire

THE PEOPLE of Talavera, Nueva Ecija led by Mayor Manolito Fausto thanked senatorial candidate Richard Gordon for leading firefighting and rescue efforts after an old public market in the town caught fire April 15.

"He came just in time," said Fausto in a statement.

Gordon, current chair of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), saw the burning market as he was passing through the town of Talavera from a sortie in Cagayan and was on his way to Clark where he was scheduled to meet with a number of barangay officials.

Upon seeing the fire, which had then begun to burn a huge section of the market, Gordon ordered his convoy to stop and alighted his vehicle to help put out the fire.

PING FAN PHOTO FROM LACSON OFFICE

An unidentified woman lets out her emotions as presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson puts an arm around her during a recent sortie in Silay City, Negros Occidental as part of a three-day island-hopping campaign around Western Visayas.

DA assures 'minimal' effects of water lack

CITY OF MALOLOS—The effect of the stoppage of the release of water from the Angat water reservation to rice farms in Bulacan would be "very minimal," Department of Agriculture officials assured on Friday.

Gloria Carillo, DA chief in Bulacan, said more than 1,500 hectares of standing rice crops in Bulacan would have less water as a result of the shortage.

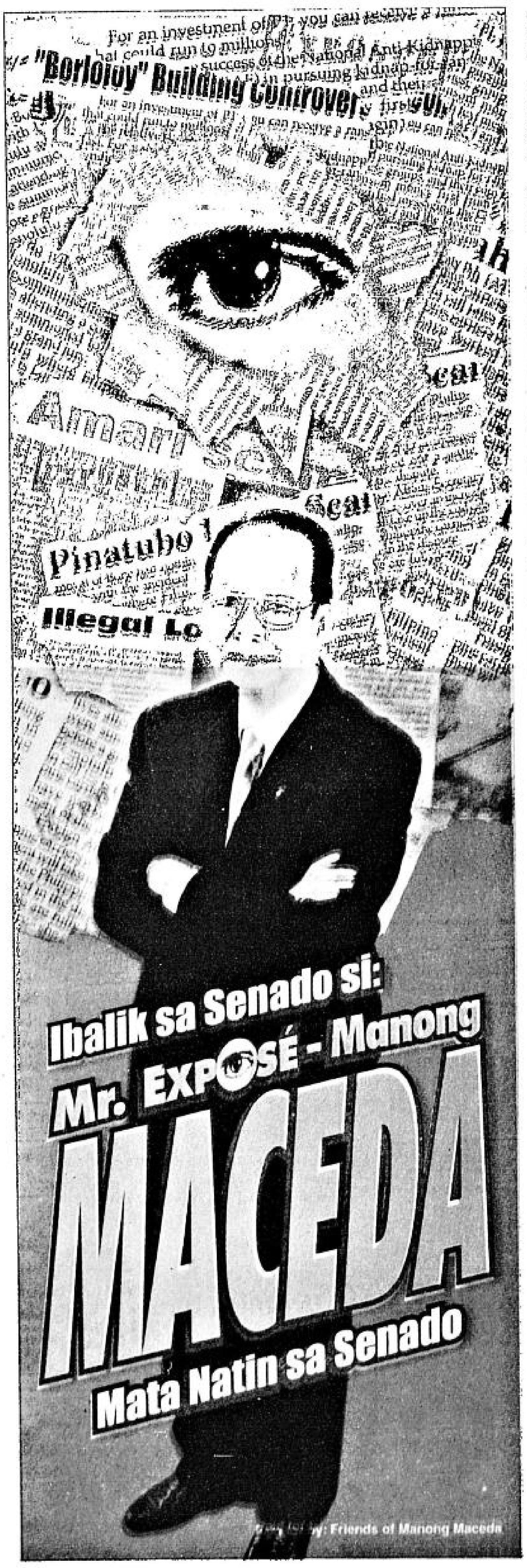
She said the figure is less than 1 percent of the total riceland area in the province which is more than 35,000 hectares.

Agriculture officials have been advising farmers not to plant their crops due to the decreasing water level of the Angat Watershed.

Some farmers had harvested their crops though, Carillo said. She encouraged them to turn to vegetable production and other alternative crops.

Carillo said she is working with the DA regional office to get more supply of vegetable seeds and other crops such as mongo beans and green corn which are not heavily dependent on water.

She said her office has released 50 units of shallow tube wells and open surface pumps to sustain the water needs of farmers in selected areas in Bulacan. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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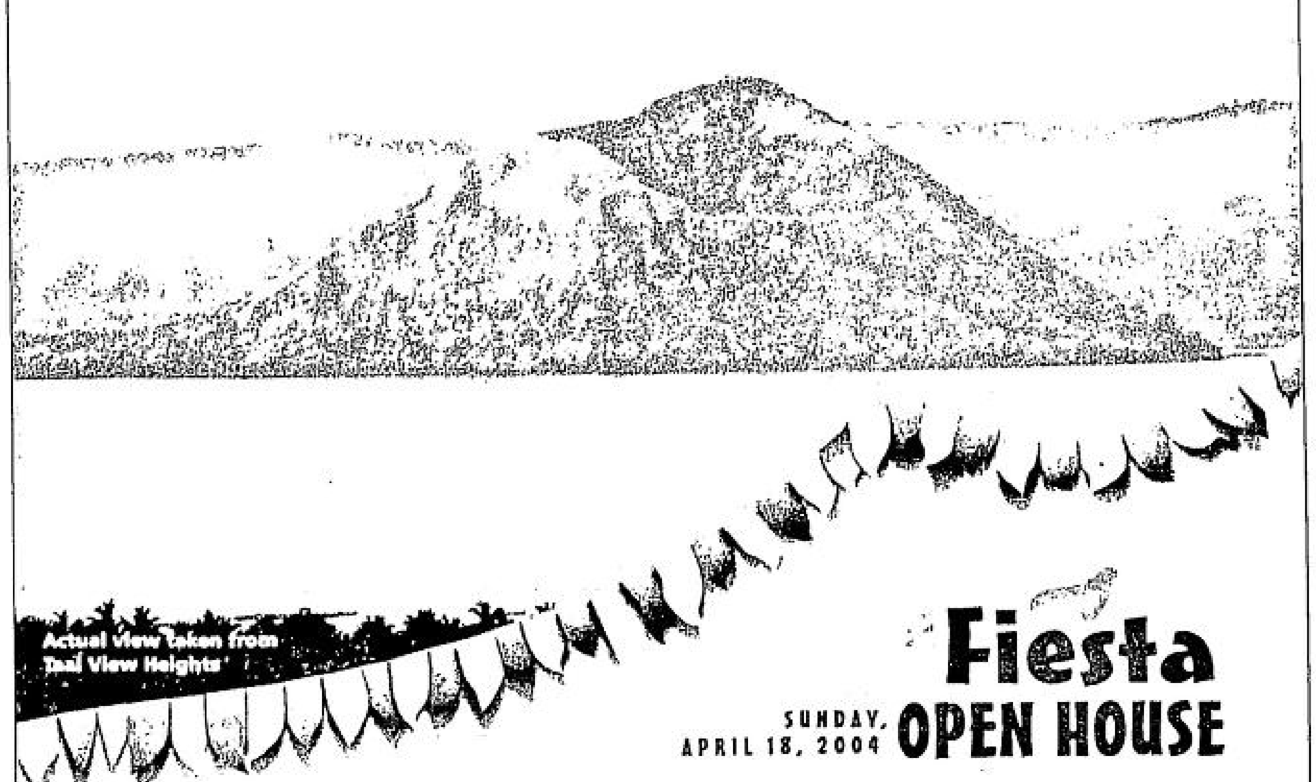

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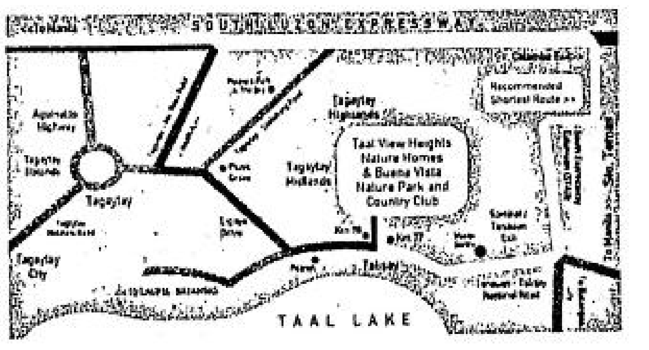

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Eagle bred in captivity to find new home in wild

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The President's eldest son, who is just on his first term as vice governor, is running in the second district, the purported bailiwick of the Macapagals.

He said he excused himself from the taping because his campaign schedule was "too loaded" and that his coordinators, not he, had the final say on his daily activities.

This happened even as the invitation was sent last March 24. A copy of the questions that candidates were required to answer was given at least three days before the taping, according to Maureen Aquino, general manager of Infomax.8, the community TV channel of the Satellite Cable Network that spearheaded the program.

The program is the first of its kind in Pampanga, where there are almost a million voters. The Commission on Elections in Central Luzon supervises the show.

Its three episodes feature mayoral candidates in the capital city of San Fernando and the congressional and gubernatorial aspirants.

The first episode was simultaneously aired and replayed on Infomax.8, dwRW-FM 95.1, Prosat's Channel 3, Sattlink's Channel 12, Datelsat's Channel 17 and on Broadcable's Channel 6 and 20 starting April 12.

Mikey's rival, Rey Lapid of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, was also absent, bolstering reports that he had backed out from the race.

Reelectionist Rep. Francis Nepomuceno and Janel Lazatin, his opponent in the first district, also begged off.

It was the same for Board Member Ferdinand Labung, (third district), actor Tony Ferrer and Telecommunications Assistant Secretary Rene Maglanque (fourth district).

Lawyer Antonio Jamon, one of the show's hosts, lamented their absences, noting that "Ang Plataporma Ko" was conceived to uphold the right of voters to information on the candidates.

Team to finish voters' list in tampered machine

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Commission on Elections in Western Visayas has created a task force to speed up the completion of the voters' list in Talisay City, Negros Occidental following the tampering of two Data Capturing Machines (DCMs) in the city's Comelec office.

Victor Gaborne, Comelec regional director, also ordered the immediate transfer of two Comelec officers from Talisay pending results of the investigation conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Act[illegible] Talisay election officer [illegible] aiza was re-assigned to [illegible] adolid town, Negros Occi[illegible] ta[illegible] Alegre Trunio, election [illegible] in Talisay, was transferred to the Comelec provincial office.

Both Araiza and Trunio had denied any involvement in the deletion of the master file of the voters' list stored in the DCM and in the opening of another DCM.

Gaborne said both Araiza and Trunio are also under investigation for poor performance after they failed to meet the Feb. 29 deadline to complete the voters' list.

Araiza would be replaced by Luz Hilario, who would head the task force created to ensure that the voters' list was completed by April 25 as ordered by the Comelec *en banc*.

The task force members were Purita Ferrer and Phoebus Teruel, election officers of Manapla and E. B. Magallona towns respectively.

Other election officials will also help them in cleaning up the Talisay voters list, Gaborne said.

The master file of the voters' list was discovered deleted from the DCM last Tuesday. Another DCM was also forcibly opened.

The DCMs are computers that capture the pictures and personal information of voters to be placed in the list of voters.

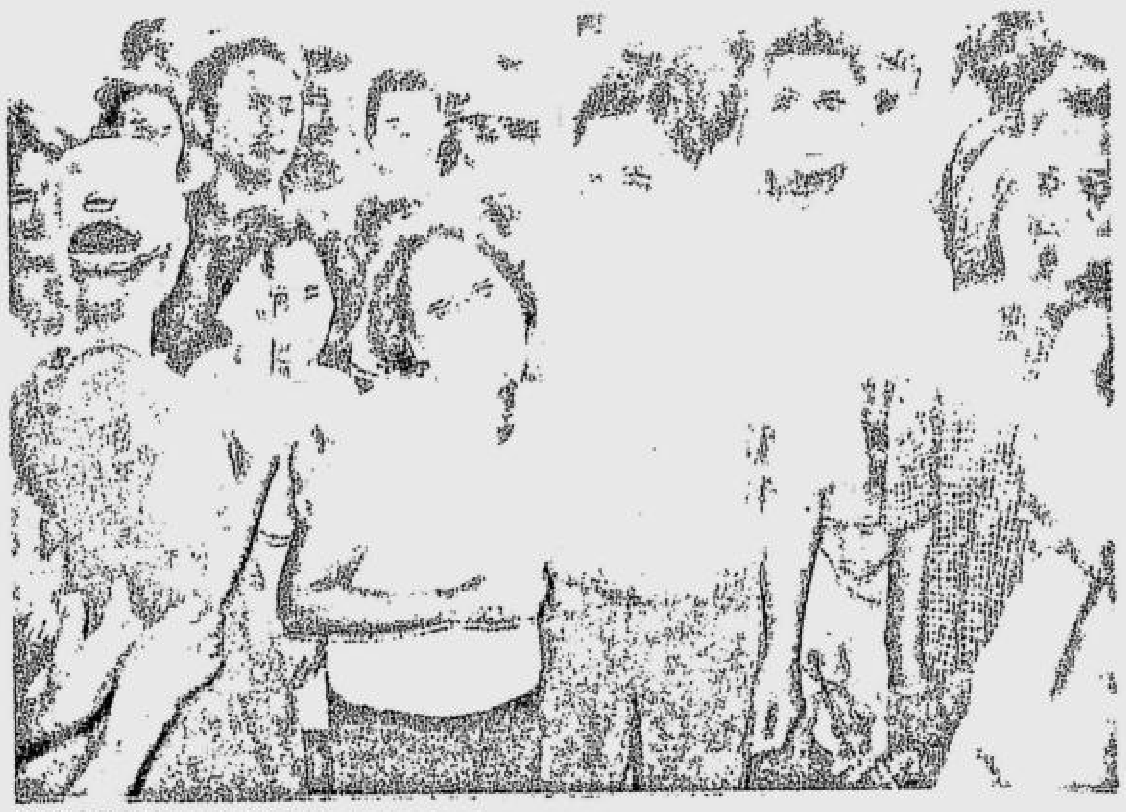
Ecija townsfolk thank Gordon for help in fire

THE PEOPLE of Talavera, Nueva Ecija led by Mayor Manolito Fausto thanked senatorial candidate Richard Gordon for leading firefighting and rescue efforts after an old public market in the town caught fire April 15.

"He came just in time," said Fausto in a statement.

Gordon, current chair of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), saw the burning market as he was passing through the town of Talavera from a sortie in Cagayan and was on his way to Clark where he was scheduled to meet with a number of barangay officials.

Upon seeing the fire, which had then begun to burn a huge section of the market, Gordon ordered his convoy to stop and alighted his vehicle to help put out the fire.



PING FAN
An unidentified woman lets out her emotions as presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson puts an arm around her during a recent sortie in Silay City, Negros Occidental as part of a three-day island-hopping campaign around Western Visayas.

DA assures 'minimal' effects of water lack

CITY OF MALOLOS—The effect of the stoppage of the release of water from the Angat water reservation to rice farms in Bulacan would be "very minimal," Department of Agriculture officials assured on Friday.

Gloria Carillo, DA chief in Bulacan, said more than 1,500 hectares of standing rice crops in Bulacan would have less water as a result of the shortage.

She said the figure is less than 1 percent of the total riceland area in the province which is more than 35,000 hectares.

Agriculture officials have been advising farmers not to plant their crops due to the decreasing water level of the Angat Watershed.

Some farmers had harvested their crops though, Carillo said. She encouraged them to turn to vegetable production and other alternative crops.

Carillo said she is working with the DA regional office to get more supply of vegetable seeds and other crops such as mongo beans and green corn which are not heavily dependent on water.

She said her office has released 50 units of shallow tube wells and open surface pumps to sustain the water needs of farmers in selected areas in Bulacan. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

"Borlolo" Building Controversy
Pinatubo
Illegal Lo
Ibalik sa Senado si:
Mr. EXPOSÉ - Manong
MACEDA
Mata Natin sa Senado

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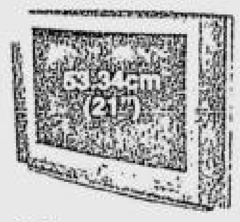
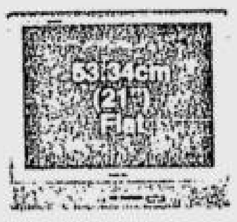
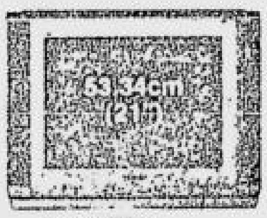


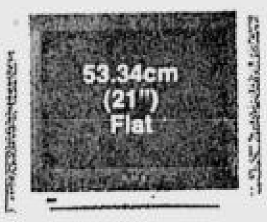
LG RP21CC20
Audio/Video Multi System
₱ 7,599



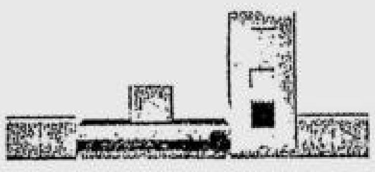
SHARP 21VFN80M
Mono Speaker System
₱ 9,998



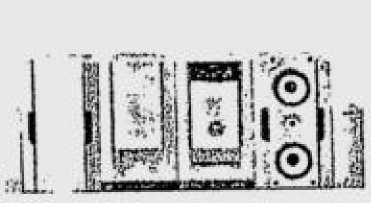
SAMSUNG CT21K9
Mono Speaker System
₱ 10,495



SONY HW 21N60
MTS Stereo System
₱ 12,990

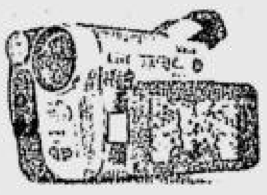


LG LH-D6230
DVD/CD/CD-R/MP3 Home Cinema
Dolby Digital, Dolby Pro Logic
₱ 14,990

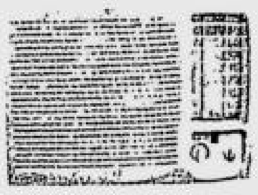


SONY HCR FL5DSW/PH
5.1 channel DVD Component
Dolby Digital/Dolby Prologic/DTS Decoding
DVD/VCD/CD/MP3 playback
₱ 39,800

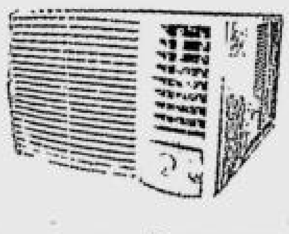
SONY DSC P92
5.0 megapixels; 3x optical zoom
SMART zoom; MPEG movie VX
Ni-Mh rechargeable batteries
₱ 22,999



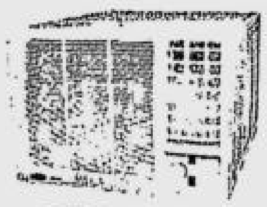
SONY DCR TRV 460
Digital 8 format
990x digital & 20x optical zoom
Memory stick slot
Touch Panel Display
₱ 35,999



CONDURA FCC055BP
0.50 HP capacity
manual rotary knobs
₱ 7,995

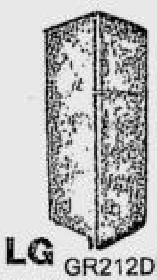


Kelvinator MCK115BP
1.0 HP capacity
manual rotary control
₱ 11,995

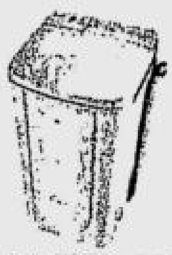


Carrier FCA 095PP
1.0 HP
with 12-hour timer
₱ 14,372

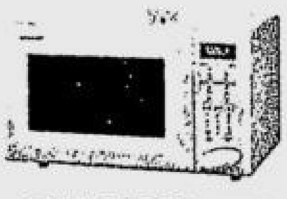
SAMSUNG RA20VGSS
6.0 cuft single-door
with thru-door water dispenser
₱ 10,495



LG GR212DL
7.0 cuft capacity
Two-Door, No-Frost
Multi Air Flow
₱ 11,995



SHARP ES450W
4.5 kgs dry load capacity
single tub
₱ 2,498



SHARP R220F
23 liter oven capacity
800watts
light-up dial
₱ 3,998

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Abenson, having first opened its doors in 1970, now caters to millions of Filipino households for their appliance needs. To date, it has become the largest retail network with over 65 branches nationwide making Abenson the most conducive and convenient appliance retail outfit in the country.

Abenson's continued success is in lieu of the long-standing trust and loyalty of the Filipino market for several reasons. One, the company develops itself to better cater to its particular customer needs and expectations. Urban stores have lifestyle displays showcasing high technology Plasma TV's and state-of-the-art home theaters. Two, Abenson sells only branded appliances. Products sold in store are pre-selected for quality: only well-established brands are displayed in an Abenson store floor. This stamp of quality assures you of full manufacturer's warranty and a wide service network. Third, Abenson upgrades its technology to give you fast service time and ease in appliance shopping. Lastly, value-added services like Extended Warranty, Door-to-Door delivery and flexible payment schemes are offered to customers to give them utmost convenience.

Abenson keeps strong relationships with its list of suppliers in order to provide Filipinos better choices when it comes to their home appliances needs. Working together with world-class brands, Abenson believes that customers win by having the best appliance deals. With this in place, Abenson has become Filipinos' trusted appliance shop-getting the widest variety of brands with the highest quality performance and workmanship.

This year, Abenson has been given the highest distinction by the following brands: SONY, SHARP, LG, SAMSUNG, CONDURA, KELVINATOR, PHILIPS, and CARRIER as their 2003 "Dealer of the Year" and "Most Preferred Dealer". As the brands' Dealer of the Year, Abenson achieved the highest sales compared with other appliance retailers. This signals that Abenson is, in fact, the choice of many Filipinos. It shows that Abenson's stronger relationship with appliance manufacturers assures customers of the best value appliance deals

With this achievement, Abenson embraces this event as another opportunity in further providing Filipinos the best bargains in the market.

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Carrier CONDURA Kelvinator LG SAMSUNG SHARP SONY

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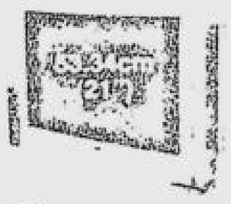

LG RP21CC20
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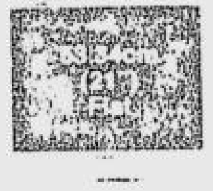
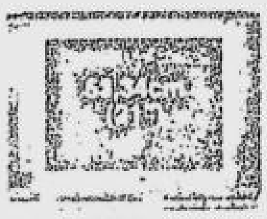


SHARP 21VFN80M
Mono Speaker System
₱ 9,998



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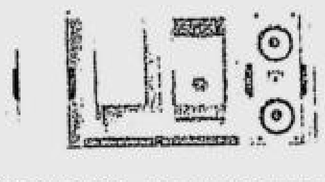

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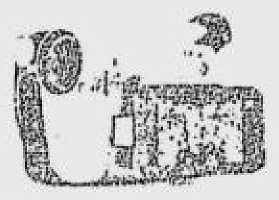

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Touch Panel Display
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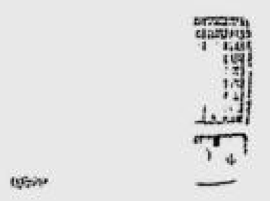

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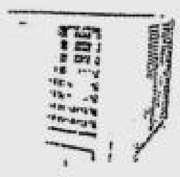

Kelvinator MCK115BP
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manual rotary control
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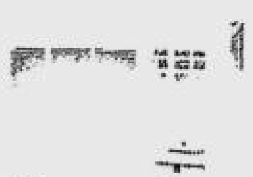

Carrier FCA 095PP
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SAMSUNG RA20VGSS
6.0 cuft single-door
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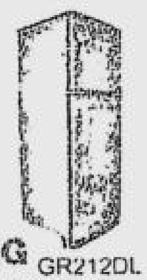

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7.0 cuft capacity
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Multi Air Flow
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SHARP ES450W
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SHARP R220F
23 liter oven capacity
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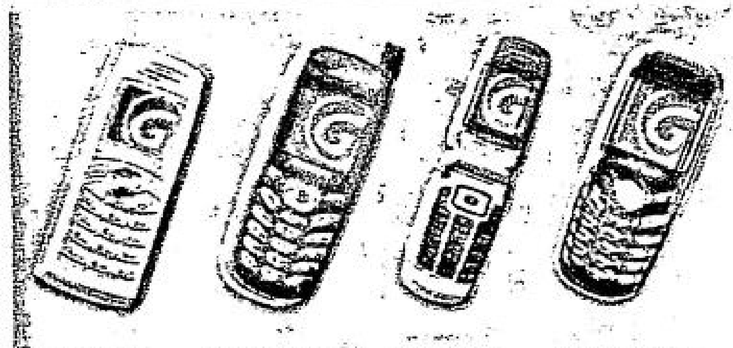

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- Slim design

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SAMSUNG E700
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SAMSUNG X100
FREE on Flex 2500
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Flex 3,500	₱ 3,500	400	₱ 4.00	₱ 4.50
Flex 5,000	₱ 5,000	400	₱ 4.00	₱ 4.50

	MSF	Free Text	Free Mins.	GHP-GHP	GHP-non-GHP
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Talk	₱1,200	350	210	₱ 5.00	₱ 6.50
Talk Plus	₱1,800	450	350	₱ 4.50	₱ 6.00
Match	₱2,500	550	500	₱ 4.00	₱ 5.50
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INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Siquijor folk restore old church

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Lazi, Siquijor

FOR MORE than a century, two magnificent historical landmarks in the country have been the pride of the residents of the coastal town of Lazi in Siquijor.

Now, the people here are making sure that the 120-year-old St. Isidore Labrador Church and its 117-year-old convent will be restored and preserved, not just for the tourists but the future generation as well.

Residents have started to be concerned about the state of the church and convent in 1999 when a study of the National Historical Institute (NHI) revealed that these historical landmarks are in a state of advanced deterioration.

Wasting no time, about 50 Lazi residents formed the Siquijor Heritage Foundation, Inc. in July 1999 to preserve and promote the province's rich culture and history.

Its main project is the restoration of two historical landmarks. The members initiated an awareness campaign and raised funds for the repair of the church and the convent.

Standing proud

With a population of 81,598, Siquijor is an island-province in Central Visayas with a land area of only 343.5 square kilometers.

Lazi is located about 46 km from the municipality of Larena, the main entry point of the province where the major port is located.

At the town proper, the visitors will find the pride of the municipality—the St. Labradore Church and its convent.

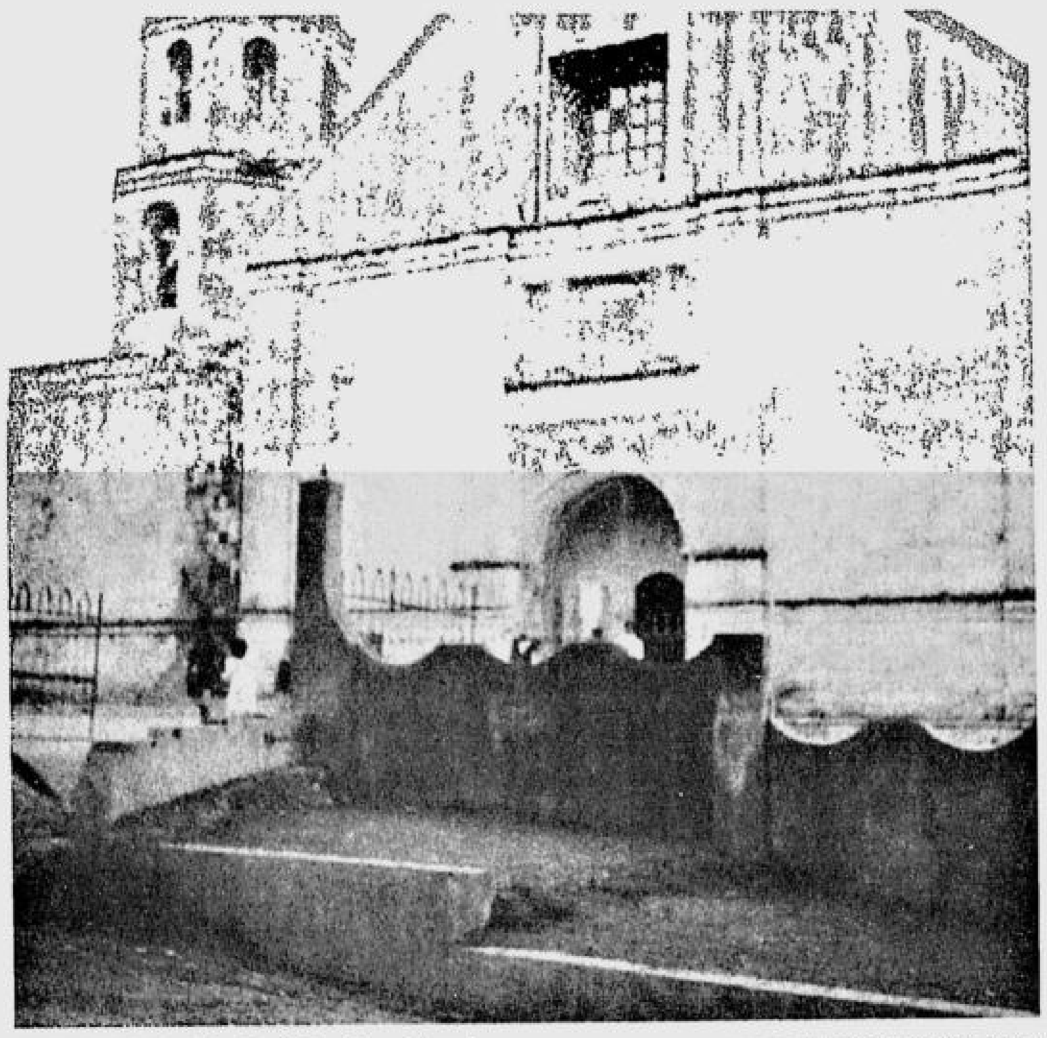
Founded by the Augustinian Recollects, the church was built in 1884 by Filipino artisans. It is famous for its marvelous bell tower and its coral stones structures.

Century-old relics and furniture can still be found inside the church, including the several meters long closet believed to be more than 140 years old.

The Lazi convent, as it is sometimes called, is located in front of the Church.

Fray Toribio Sanchez supervised its construction in 1887 and made sure that indigenous coral stones and hard wood were used. It was completed and blessed in 1891.

The convent measures 1,596 square meters and is considered the biggest among the oldest convents in the Philippines and in Asia by the Philippine Historical Commission in 1985.



THE FACADE of the St. Labradore Church

JOLENE R. BULAMBOT/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

It is made of solid stone columns with wood flooring. Its facade is built on limestone arcs that also support the hallway.

The doors, windows and altarpieces of the two-story convent are made of Ipil, Yakal and Molave lumbers found in Lazi.

Riza Lee Calibu, Philippine Information Agency information officer in Siquijor, said both the church and convent are considered national treasures, protected by Republic Act 4896, the law on the preservation and restoration of government historical buildings, shrines and other structures.

Rolando Suligan, 25, and a caretaker of the convent, said local artists and foreigners often came to visit the convent in the summer and in December.

Suligan said field trips from Cebu, Bohol, Negros, Manila and even some parts of Mindanao are common during the school year.

He said the convent serves as a sanctuary of the century-old statues such as that of St. Nazareno, Mother of Perpetual Help, Lady of Guadalupe and several others housed in the mini-museum.

The caretaker said the convent had fallen victim to thieves who stole its antiques and religious items such as the original Seburium, chalice, chandelier and candle stands.

"The convent has become a favorite sight of the visitors. They come here, feeling so relaxed because of the spacious rooms adorned by old paintings and other unique structures," Suligan said.

Deterioration

But the church and the convent have started to deteriorate with the passing of time and the harsh weather.

In 1999, the two architects from the NHI conducted an architectural assessment on the two landmarks.

Their findings showed that several vegetation have grown in the limestone walls of both edifices.

They also noted the presence of bats and black birds whose urine was so acidic they could pose harm to the century-old structures.

Fr. Victor Fontejon, parish priest of Lazi, said the ceilings of the church leak when it rains, while the large wooden doors have begun loosing their sturdiness.

But he said restoration efforts on both the church and the convent will be undertaken soon.

Fontejon said a team from the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) would conduct a Detailed Engineering Study (DES) of the church and convent.

Several architects and engineers would comprise the DES team, he added.

"The team would be here this month to conduct an on-sight inspection of the area and a detailed engineering study would follow next," said Fontejon.

"Aside from studying the original structures, they would also be studying the tremor count and several others," he added.

Fontejon said the DES is estimated to cost at least P3.5 million and might take a year to finish. But, he added, the DES is a pre-requisite for the restoration project.

United front

Efforts to restore St. Isidore Labrador Church and its convent have drawn overwhelming support not only from the residents and the local government but also from the Siquijodnons living in America.

Lazi Mayor Orville Fua told the INQUIRER that the municipal government is willing to shell out P500,000 for the restoration project once it obtains permission from the NHI to donate funds.

"We want to promote our century-old church and convent being historical landmarks not only in our province but also in the entire country and even in Asia. We are very proud and we are doing our very best to preserve these structures that have become our pride," Fua said.

The Siquijor Heritage Foundation also initiated a fund-raising activity to generate funds for the restoration project.

Mayor Fua said the foundation was able to raise P300,000.

In a report to the board of directors dated March 28, Lydia Ligutom, chair of the foundation, said Siquijodnons who are living as far as the United States are contributing for the restoration project.

The report cited Edward Lim, a Siquijodnon based in California, who joined a 26.2-mile marathon in Chicago to raise awareness for and convince other Siquijodnons in the US to help in the restoration project.

Mayor Fua said the people of Siquijor await the completion of the restoration, which, he said, will hopefully boost tourism in the area.

But with the help and concern shown by the residents of Lazi, it will not be long that the town's pride will be fully restored to its old grandeur.

Scandals

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

WITH several sensational drug busts under its belt, the government is claiming victory in its war against illegal drugs. But its foot soldiers have yet to reach the battlefield that matters most—its backyard—and confront its worst nemesis—itself.

Publicity-conscious officials may parade a newly captured drug lord each day, impose the harshest penalties on drug dealers and their protectors, and endlessly harp on the evil and danger of narco-politics, but will any of these matter when shabu manufacturers have a steady supply of raw materials?

If the supply of pseudoephedrine, the main shabu ingredient, isn't a problem, drug dealers have, of all people, officials of the Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency (PDEA) to thank for.

Recently, authorities foiled an attempt to sneak a 1.7-ton cargo of pseudoephedrine, a highly controlled substance, into Cebu. This would have translated into P3.6 billion worth of shabu, enough stock, according to a local watch group against narco-politics, to make over a million addicts happy for one week.

Documents show that despite its fuzzy credentials, Coastside Ventures Inc. (CVI), the consignee of the shipment from China, managed to secure a PDEA certificate to import the chemical.

This came as a complete surprise to many Cebuanos, including CVI's original incorporators who knew that the financially troubled food company had long closed shop. In fact, CVI has not been submitting its annual financial statements to the Securities and Exchange Commission, and is in danger of losing its permit.

Apparently, some enterprising individuals, including at least a couple of foreigners, stepped into the picture after most of the CVI founders had thrown in the towel, and found ingenious use for the company's legal personality.

Its new agents included a certain Mike Cummings, whose name appeared on import documents, and Dirk D'Hulst, described by Gov. Pablo Garcia as the "living-in companion" of Vice Gov. John Gregory Osmeña, who rented a warehouse for CVI.

They saw a more lucrative venture: from food ingredients to pseudoephedrine. They decided to import the valuable chemical, which is also used to make cough and cold medicines, but for what? The PDEA didn't bother to find out.

The PDEA granted CVI a certificate to import despite the fact that the firm was never known as a pharmaceutical company, had no track record, and had no credibility to speak of. Most of its new officials and agents, who have since slinked away to undisclosed places, don't exactly inspire trust.

Considering that CVI was dealing in a major shabu component, one would expect PDEA officials to be more circumspect in giving the company the certificate to import. Yet in this case, the agency showed less prudence than a City Hall inspector approving a business permit for a *sari-sari* store.

The PDEA laxity makes the campaign against illegal drugs a farce, and many people now doubt if the government can win that campaign without first winning over itself. The agency is leading the investigation into the illegal shipment, but the more important question is: who will investigate the investigator?

***

SCANDALS. Has "controversy" become Vice Governor Osmena's middle name? Three successive scandals have lined him up for a crack at dubious history—the first true-blooded Osmeña to lose a local election.

Based on official documents, at least three members of his staff were shown to have been involved in the pseudoephedrine shipment.

Although the paper trail doesn't lead to his office yet, John-john has been hard pressed explaining away his ties with D'Hulst and a confluence of factors and circumstantial evidence that all point in his direction.

Some of the suspects being investigated for the illegal shipment are also connected with Perdido Lex Foundation, the bogus group that diverted at least P5 million from Osmeña's discretionary funds to ghost computer projects.

The Perdido Lex scam is the subject of a separate inquiry by the Ombudsman in the Visayas.

Not too long ago, John-john was also linked to Daniel Machanik, an American who operated a sleazy online dating service with young Cebuana models.

After a chance meeting on Boracay Island, John-john invited Machanik, now a fugitive from justice, to invest in Cebu, offering help to set up the legal foundation for the American's illegal business.

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dti Bantay Bilihin **PRICE MONITOR** In Metro Manila

Bantay Bilihin is the Department of Trade and Industry's program that aims to address various components of price and supply stabilization. This price monitoring guide is the consumer's reference on the average prices of selected basic goods and prime commodities. The items listed below are some of the most common necessities we buy.

DTI and the Department of Agriculture monitor around 35 select markets in Metro Manila that are accessible and with heavy consumer traffic and trading activity.

Prices in different markets may be higher or lower than the average price.

BASIC & PRIME COMMODITIES (Monitored by DTI)	SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	AVERAGE PRICE (As of April 09, 2004)	PRICE RANGE (As of April 09, 2004)		AVERAGE PRICE A Month Ago (March 2004)
Canned Fish (155g)			7.00	10.00	
555	-	8.10			8.09
Youngstown	-	8.79			8.75
Hakata	-	8.14			8.12
Master	8.35	8.27			8.28
Ligo	-	8.43			8.42
Instant Noodles (Chicken/55g)			4.00	5.75	
Lucky Me	-	4.73			4.72
Maggi	5.25	5.18			5.18
Payless	-	4.34			4.33
Nissin's Ramen	-	4.98			4.98
Powdered Filled Milk (180g)			29.25	36.00	
Alaska	36 00	34.17			31.94
Bear Brand	36 00	34.34			33.10
Coffee (25g Refill)			10.75	15.50	
Blend 45	-	12.44			12.28
Nescafe	14.40	14.36			14.30
Café Puro	-	12.67			12.67
Great Taste	-	13.01			12.96
Laundry Soap (400g)			21.75	27.00	
Perla	28 00	24.28			24.24
Wheel	22.00	22.00			22.64
Detergent Bar (480g)			13.00	25.00	
Surf	14.20	14.74			14.74
Mr Clean	-	14.41			14.34
Tide	20 00	22 96			22 92
Breeze	23 95	23 38			23 34

COMMODITY (Monitored by DA-BAS)	AVERAGE PRICE (April 13, 2004)	AVERAGE PRICE A Week Ago (April 06, 2004)	AVERAGE PRICE A Month Ago (March 2004)
Meat and Poultry			
Beef Brisket (per kilo)	143.68	143.68	143 68
Egg (Medium/per piece)	3.23	3.23	3.57
Fish (per kilo)			
Bangus	89 27	89 30	93.38
Tilapia	70.84	71 00	70.19
Galunggong	72.64	70.00	74.51
Rice (per kilo)			
Ordinary	18.57	18 62	18 65
Special	22 37	22 38	22 44
Premium	25 72	25 77	25 71
Fancy	32.67	32 46	32.70
Sugar (per kilo)			
Refined	26 45	26 44	26 55
Brown	22 23	22 26	22 58

MEAT AND POULTRY (Monitored by DA-BAI)	FARMGATE PRICE As of April 12, 2004 (Price per Kilo)	WHOLESALE PRICE As of April 12, 2004 (Price per Kilo)	AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE As of April 12, 2004 (Price per Kilo)
Chicken (Dressed)	66.11	78 50	95 33
Pork	86 36	112 68	142.29

CEMENT (40kg Bag)	SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE (Pick Up & Cash Price per Bag as of April 09, 2004)	AVERAGE PRICE (Pick Up & Cash Price per Bag as of April 09, 2004)
Island	125 00	128.91
Union	125 00	129 27

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Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection
2/F Trade and Industry Building, 361 Gen. J. Puyat Ave., Makati City 1200
Tel.: 8977-DTI • Website: www.dti.gov.ph • Text: Type DTI <space><your message>send to 2920
For Meat and Poultry, call the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Industry- 920-3906
For other Agricultural Commodities, call the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics-371-2078

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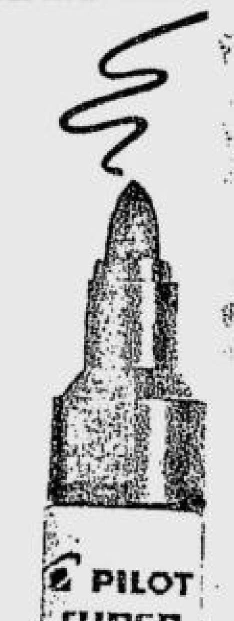

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METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

MEGALOTTO 6/45
8 27 33 38 40 45

Rally sneaks through cops near Palace

By Leila B. Salaverria

POLICEMEN securing the way to Malacañang were caught by surprise yesterday by members of a militant group that sprang a rally near Gate 7 of the presidential Palace.

Around 7 to 10 members of the group Sanlakas staged the lightning rally to call for the immediate pull out of Filipino soldiers in Iraq.

Sanlakas information officer Don Pangan said that their members slipped through the guards at about 11 a.m. and managed to unfurl placards and banners near the St. Jude Thaddeus Church and Gate 7 along Jose P. Laurel Sr. Street.

Near admin office

The place was a few meters away from the Malacañang Administration Office.

Moments after launching the rally and marching closer to Malacañang, Western Police District officers blocked their path and began pushing them away.

Pangan said in a phone interview that the policemen grabbed the placards and an oversized postcard letter.

The postcard letter, he added, was supposed to remind the President that she should send home at once the Filipino soldiers in Iraq. The postcard bore the message "Why wait? Just do it. Bring back our troops home."

Fortunately, no one suffered injuries in the incident, although several Sanlakas members lost their slippers, Pangan said.

SPO3 Eddie Laroya said the scuffle lasted for about three minutes. No one was arrested in the incident, although the placards and banners that the members carried were seized by members of the Western Police District's Fieldforce.

In a statement, Sanlakas spokesperson Rasti Delizo said Malacañang should not have second thoughts on pulling out Filipino troops from Iraq lest any Filipino gets hurt.

Kidnapping threat

He noted the recent kidnapping of a Filipino truck driver along with several other non-Iraqi people. Fortunately, the Filipino truck driver was subsequently released.

"The Philippine peacekeeping force should be pulled out at the soonest possible time because the escalation of the conflict between rebel Iraqi forces and coalition troops is imminent, as the recent kidnapping of non-combatants clearly shows," Delizo said.

Recently, three Japanese aid workers were released by members of an armed group in Iraq opposing the continued presence of foreign forces in that country.

With Niel Lim

Case against FPJ crawls as elections approach

By Tarra Quismundo

WITH the elections coming in less than a month, two cases stirred by the presidential ambition of actor Fernando Poe Jr. have yet to be settled.

The Manila Prosecutor's Office has yet to resolve the case of perjury and falsification of public documents filed against Poe by private lawyers Melanio Balayan and Albert Villaseca and non-government urban poor organization Akbay Maralita Sa Lungsod Silangan Townsite Reservation, Inc.

Recommendation up

Investigating prosecutor Elseray Faith Noro said she had already drawn up her recommendation on the four-month-old petition. It is up for review by the city's chief prosecutor.

The charges that sought Poe's disqualification from the presidential race alleged that Poe's birth certificate in the Manila Civil Registry was fake.

Poe, the charges alleged further, was not a natural-born Filipino, as he should have acquired his American mother's citizenship, who gave birth to him while she has yet to marry Poe's father.

Falsification case

Meanwhile, the charges of falsification of public documents and use of falsified documents filed against lawyer siblings Andresito and Victorino Fornier may be resolved in a month.

Assistant prosecutor Gene Julianda said yesterday that the case has already been submitted for resolution, after the Forniers filed their counter-affidavit.

The petition was filed by human rights lawyer Oliver Lozano, who is also a seeking a seat in the Senate in the coming elections.

Lozano alleged that the brothers used fake documents in questioning Poe's citizenship.

HOPING FOR LIFE
A man throws a net into the Tumana River in Marikina City hoping to catch dinner. JOAN BONDOC

NPD gets radio, cars, reinforcement

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THEIR request is granted. Partly.

The Northern Police District has received 50 new radio equipment from the National Capital Region Police Office. Three police stations also received new police cars from their respective local government units.

Earlier, the INQUIRER reported that the district, just like the four other police districts in the metropolis, was requesting additional radio equipment, police cars, firearms and ammunition to beef up the security measures as the election campaign heated up.

The Caloocan City government gave six new police cars to the city police while the Valenzuela City and the Malabon City governments gave three and two new police cars respectively to their police stations.

The district would also receive 10 radio equipment and additional firearms in the next few days, NCRPO director Ricardo de Leon said yesterday.

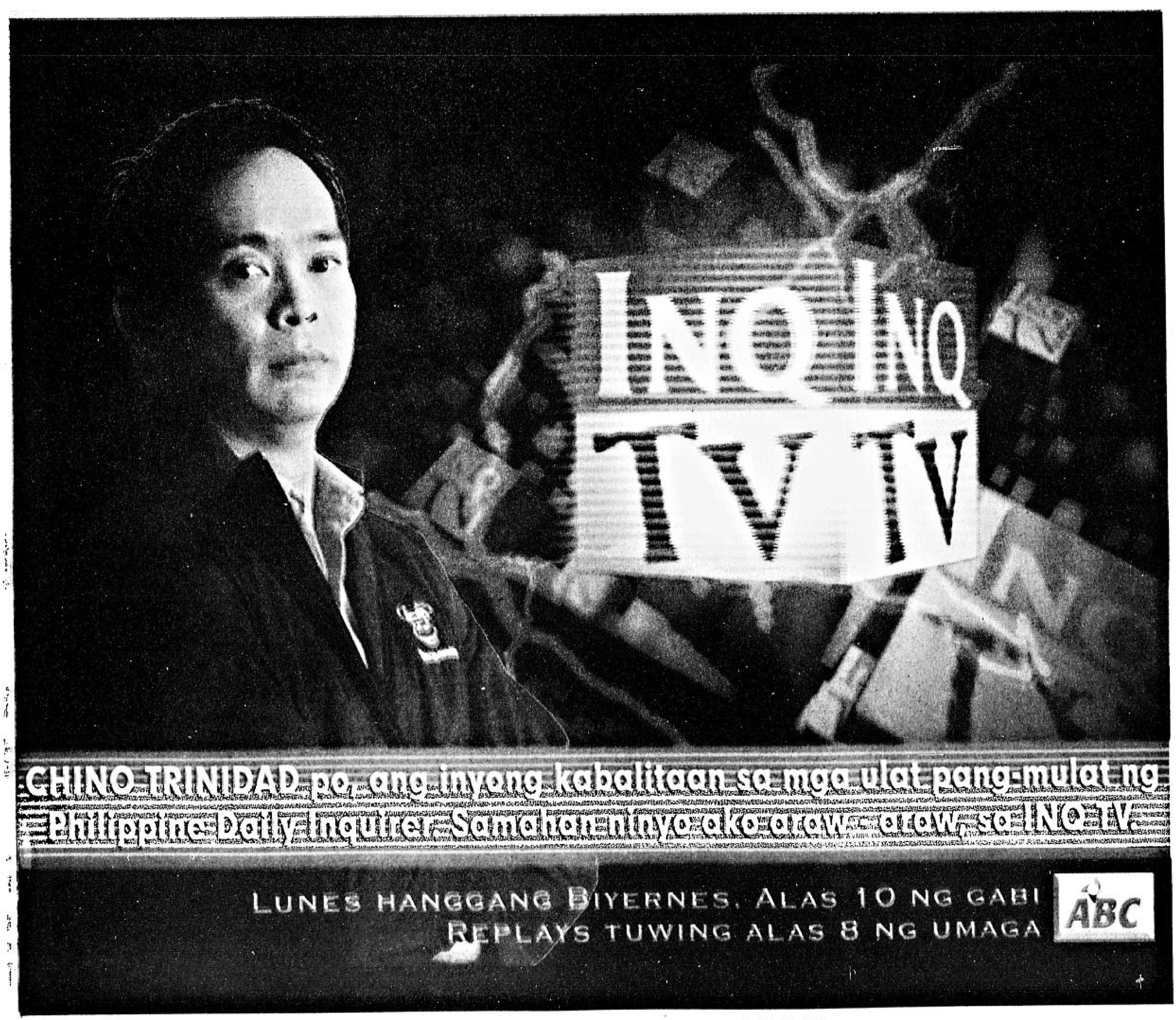
He added that a company from the Armed Forces NCR Command would be deployed in the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela) area.

This would be in addition to the 18 soldiers already assisting in the chokepoints and the four antiterror AFP teams in the area, NPD director Marcelino Franco said.

Yesterday, the police chiefs also reiterated their request for increased gasoline allowances from the NCRPO.

The NPD has declared three big barangays in Caloocan City as areas of immediate concern: Bagong Barrio, Bagong Silang and Dagat-Dagatan. The police based the assessment on the "intense political rivalry" between the candidates' supporters.

Close monitoring was also recommended over Barangay Tanza in Navotas and Barangay Dampalit in Malabon City.



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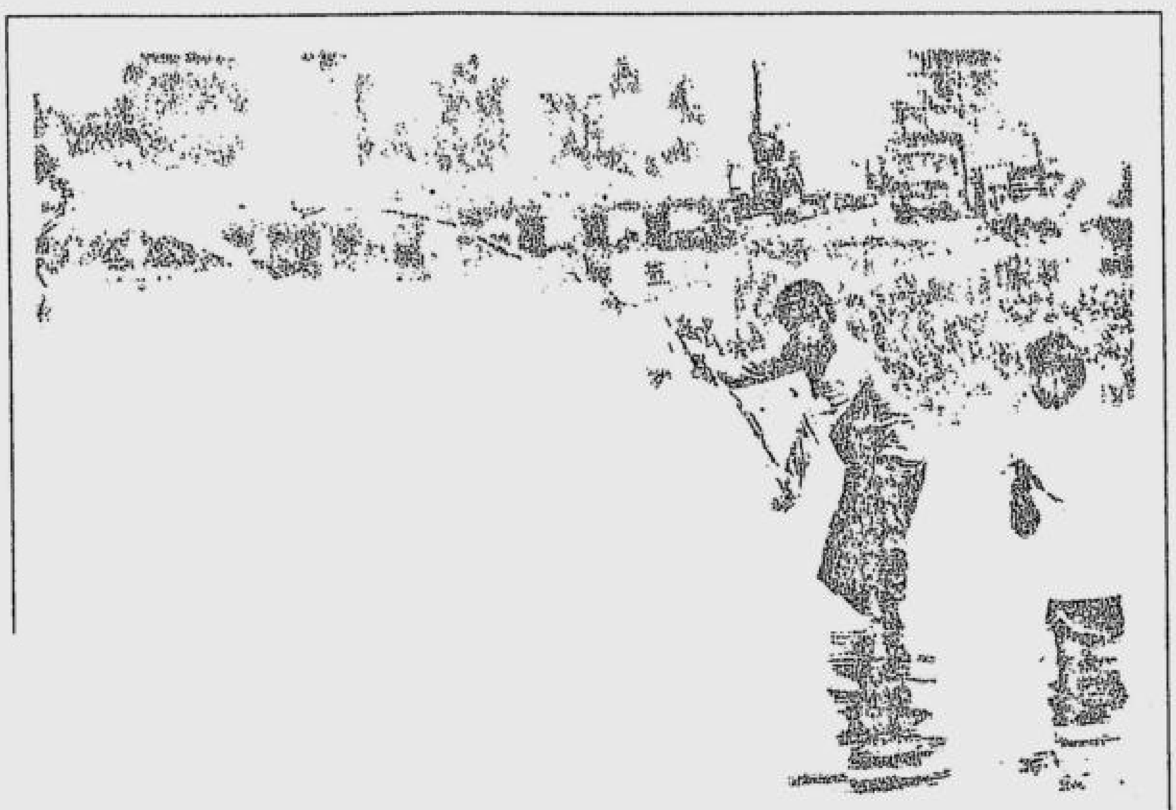

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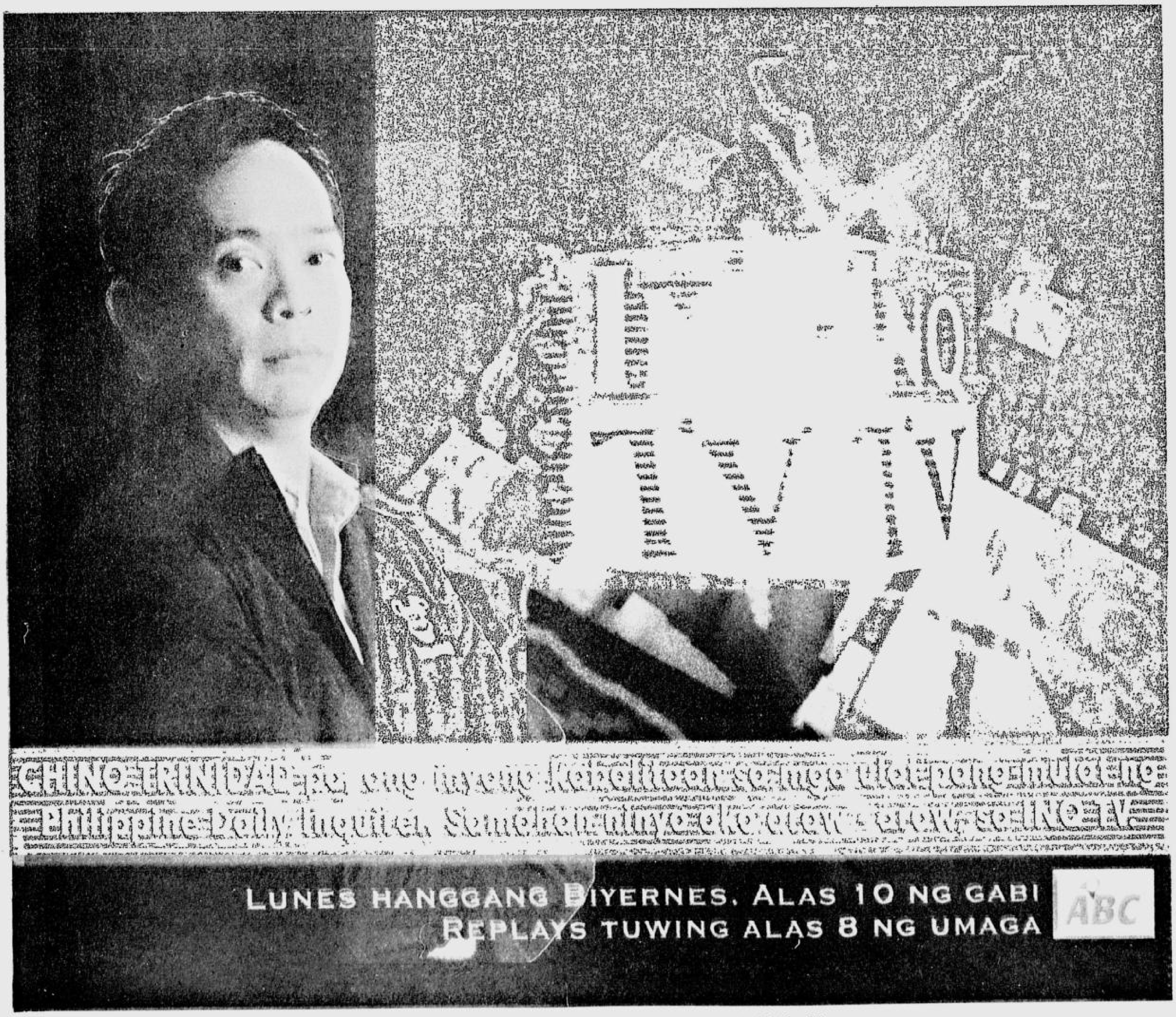

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METROBRIEFS

2 die in motorcycle crash

TWO PERSONS, including a teenager, died after their motorcycle bumped a taxi at dawn yesterday in Marikina City. The driver of the motorcycle, Leslie Benitez, 17, of Rita Extension, Perpetual Drive, Theresita Village, this city, died instantly. One of his two companions, Adrian Casem, 23, also died while undergoing treatment at the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center. Physicians are still observing the condition of the third victim, Norman Canedo. The friends were reportedly traveling southbound on J.P. Rizal Street at 2:30 a.m. when the taxi hit them. *Luige del Puerto*

Cop yields drugs, gun

POLICEMEN arrested a fellow lawman the other night in Parañaque City for possession of illegal drugs and an unlicensed gun. PO3 Gerardo Maniaul, of 540 Dandan St., Tondo, Manila, allegedly yielded two sachets of suspected shabu and a .38 caliber revolver. Maniaul was reportedly arrested at 5:45 p.m. on J. Gabriel Street, Barangay Tambo after a concerned citizen called police hotline 117. He reportedly has a pending drug related case before the Parañaque Regional Trial Court. *Margaux Ortiz*

Robber caught on camera

A SECURITY camera was able to capture one of four men who allegedly stole P11 million worth of communications equipment from the Unicorn Communication Corp. at the Atlanta Towers on Annapolis Street, Greenhills, at about 7 p.m. Thursday. Sr. Supt. Jesus Jose Samson, town police chief, said they were looking into the possibility of an inside job. *Luige del Puerto*

Campaign staff slain

A MEMBER of the campaign staff of a congressional candidate was stabbed to death in Parañaque City the other night. Hipolito Mayuga, 53, of Puyat Compound, Barangay Tambo, and member of congressional candidate El Zialcita, was outside his house at about 7:30 p.m. when neighbor Joel Cortez, 34, allegedly attacked him with a 10-inch knife. The police said Cortez confessed having an old grudge against the victim. *Margaux Ortiz*

Aquinas Legazpi reunion

THE LEGAZPI College-Aquinas University Grand Alumni Homecoming will be held on May 1 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Aquinas University of Legazpi Campus in Rawis. The homecoming theme for this year is Kaugmahan sa Patiripunan. Alumni may contact Consolacion "Sol" Fernandez (052) 4807129/ (052) 4802828/ 09175581693; Ricky Nayve 09192454550/ (052) 8241565; Connie Lopez (052) 4813426/ 09178475511; AUGAFI Office (052) 8208361.

NCMH employees receive salaries

By Luige del Puerto

EMPLOYEES of the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH) are breathing a little easier now. They are set to get their salary today, according to the center's director, Dr. Benny Vicente.

"They would be getting their salary [today]," Vicente said in a phone interview. "We availed of a cash advance from the DBM (Department of Budget and Management)."

The announcement drew cheers from the center's employees.

"Of course we are very happy," said Antoinette Arjona, secretary to the NCMH director.

Arjona, who has four kids, said she had to dip her hands into the family's savings to survive the two-day drought.

She said she understood that what happened was not the fault of officials of the center.

Arjona was referring to the robbery which took place at the cashier's office of the mental care institution.

Still unidentified suspects stole the money which was for the employees' salaries last April 15.

Vicente said although there is no official word from the Commission on Audit yet, initial estimates placed the looted amount at P2.4 million.

On Wednesday night, the cashier, Dominador del Mundo, has already sorted out the cash for each employee.

At any given time, the cashier's office would hold around P6.2 million. The money is placed in envelopes, kept in ten wooden racks.

The police said the burglars emptied five of the ten racks.

Eric, a staff with the Personnel Department, was thankful the center made a swift action.

"*Malungkot kami sa nangyari, pero maigi na rin at nagawan agad ng paraan ng* management *ang problema,*" he said.

1 TWiN TREATS 2

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See you on April 17.

Give the mayors power over police

PHILIPPINE National Police Chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. is a man of few words, unlike one of his predecessors, Panfilo Lacson.

So, when Ebdane said the arrest of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani was imminent you'd better believe it. The guy knew what he was talking about.

However, I don't agree with Ebdane's statement that with Janjalani's arrest the PNP would deliver the "final blow" to the Moro terrorist group.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

Even if Janjalani were killed, there would be many other Moros who would replace him. Janjalani is a folk hero to the Moro folks in Basilan.

* * *

So, what's the best way to deal with Moro terrorists like Janjalani, who are among the most ruthless persons that have walked on the face of the earth?

Make them realize that their terroristic acts would be returned in kind. Next time Abu Sayyaf bandits kidnap or kill innocent civilians, make their close relatives pay for their act. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

You say the suggestion is barbaric? Ask the Israelis how they deal with Muslim terrorists in the Middle East.

And c'mon, let's not be hypocrites! During the time of Marcos, the government gave the Moro rebels who kidnapped foreigners and innocent civilians a dose of their own medicine.

That's why there were few kidnappings perpetrated by Moros during the time of Marcos.

* * *

In Thursday's column, I said that Manila was the country's illegal gambling capital.

I wasn't referring to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza as the Big Chief to whom weekly tong collections were given. The tong collections received by the Big Chief amount to P725,000 a month.

No, Atienza doesn't tolerate illegal gambling in his city. He's too busy sprucing up the once-blighted parks in the city. Look what he's done to Roxas Boulevard's walkway and the shoreline at the Rizal Park.

But Atienza has no control over his police force, like all other mayors in the country. He doesn't appoint his police chief, like all other mayors in the country.

So, if the town or city is crime-ridden and is a gambling haven, don't blame the mayor.

Even if the mayor is concerned about the peace and order in his city, if the police chief is not cooperative, he can't do anything because he doesn't have power over the police.

It's high time the mayors got back their power over the town or city police force.

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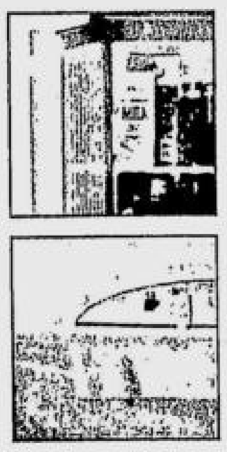

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SPORTS

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SAMSUNG'S Ramos (front) and teammate Obosa (13) outkick Mail and More's Marcelo (10) just meters shy of the Stage 2 finish. ROMY HOMILLADA

Ramos tops 2nd lap, grabs yellow jersey

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DAET, Camarines Norte—Merculio Ramos pleased his wife, took the P10,000 lap prize and then slipped on the yellow jersey of leadership in the Air21 Tour Pilipinas 2004 yesterday.

The 25-year-old Ramos just can't do anything wrong in ruling the short Naga City-to-Daet second stage and grabbed the overall lead by finishing ahead of a three-man first pack here.

Interestingly, Ramos said he was only trying to impress his pregnant wife who had asked him for a stage honor today. His wife, Arlene, who is five months pregnant, is in Binalonan, Pangasinan.

"I wasn't aiming for the yellow jersey," said

RAMOS/ A27

RP Youth, Singapore seal Seaba title clash

LUCENA CITY—The RP-Burlington Youth Team warded off a tough challenge from Thailand to score an 89-80 victory yesterday and move into the final of the 4th South East Asia Junior Basketball Championship at the Quezon Convention Center here.

With their scoring machine sputtering, the Filipinos trailed by as many as eight points before regaining their rhythm and streaking to their third straight win in as many outings in the 18-under tournament.

The RP team, mentored by Johny Tam, seeks a sweep of the tournament when it plays Singapore in today's 3 p.m. final.

The vastly improved Singaporeans downed defending champion Malaysia, 77-62, in the second game to arrange the repeat showdown with RP-Burlington.

The Filipinos dumped Singapore, 104-50, in their first meeting Thursday, but making it to the final was a big leap for the Singaporeans who landed fifth and last in the 2002 Kuala Lumpur tilt.

James Martinez led the Nationals with 24 points, five assists and four steals, while the 6-foot-3 Ogie Menor was a tower of power, finishing with 22 points and 16 rebounds.

Burly JR Taganas added 13 points in a contest which the Thais controlled up to the last two minutes of the second quarter, 38-30, behind their hot perimeter shooting, complemented by a stingy defense.

The Thais were still within striking distance, 71-65, before the Filipinos finally put them away with an 8-0 run at the start of the fourth quarter.

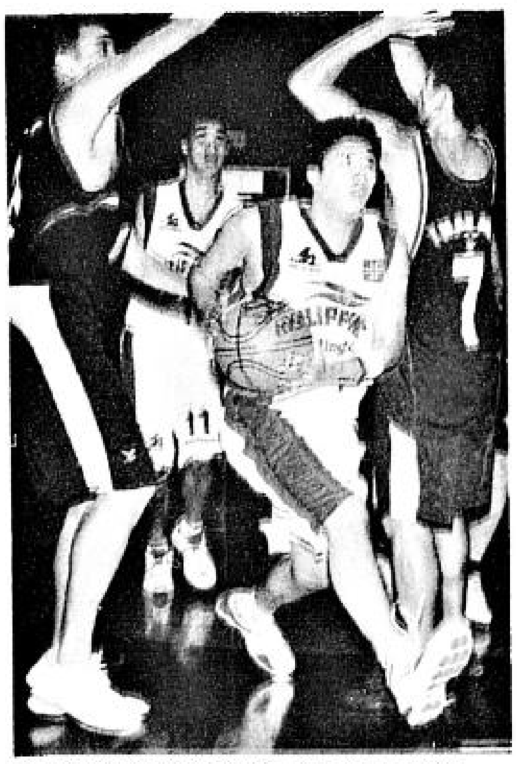
"The Thais were able to solve our man-zone so we had to switch to 2-3. I told my players that they are better than the Thais and they proved it when they rallied in the last two minutes of the first half," said Tam, also an assistant coach of FedEx in the PBA.

The scores:

RP 89—Martinez 24, Menor 22, Taganas 13, Castro 6, Ababou 6, Calatayud 4, Astorga 4, Sy 3, Antonio 2, Baldos 2.

THAILAND 80—Phonsoongjeon 20, Pommakon 16, Guedpradub 13, Gandiake 13, Chutsiriyingyong 8, Kanokamorijsin 8, Chanapa 2.

Halftime: 43-40

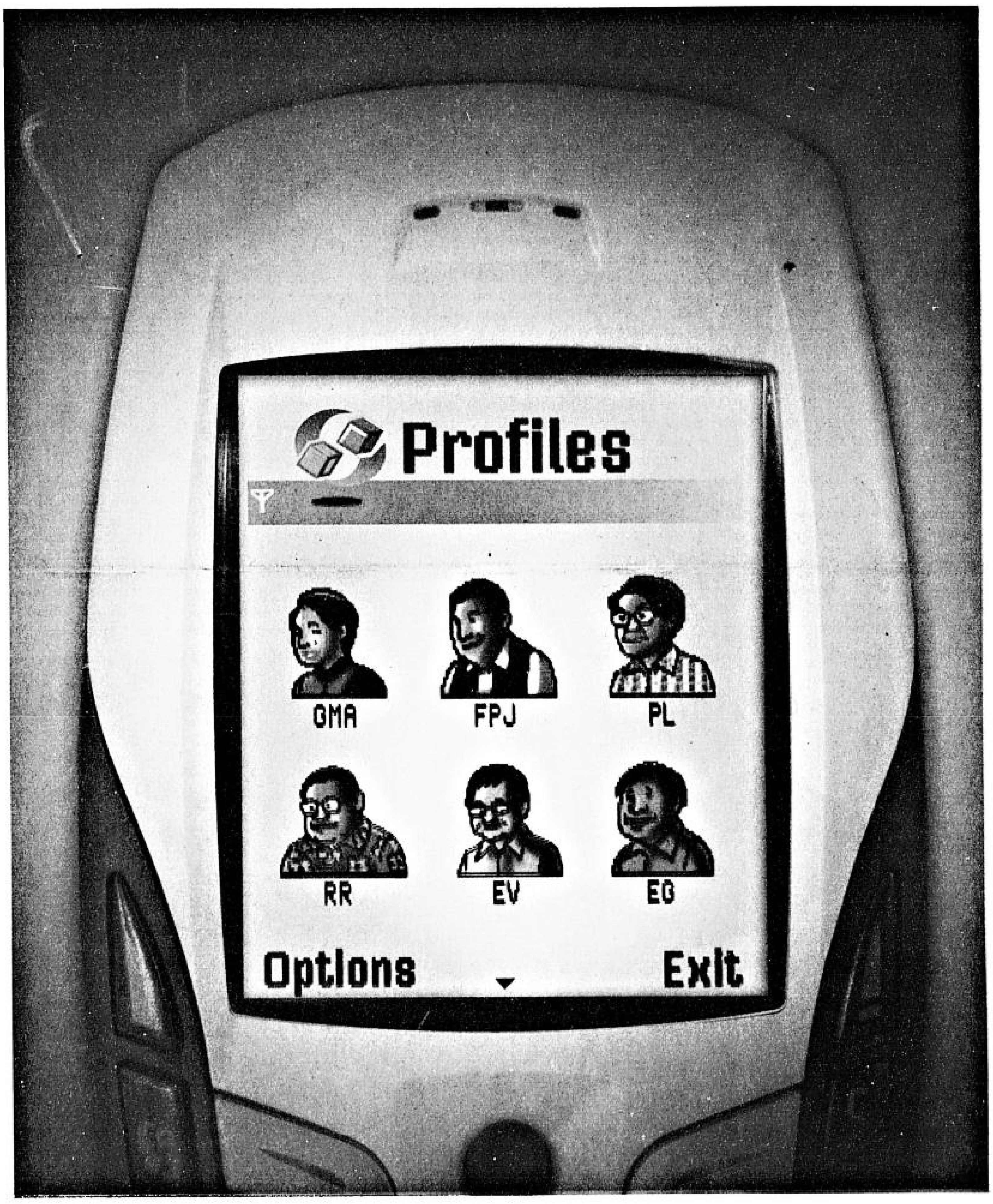


MARTINEZ of RP-Burlington pierces the loose Thai defense. RUDY ESPERAS

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASEBALL: MLB-Yankees vs Red Sox; 8 a.m. (r-12 noon and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN—Last year's bitter Game 7 ALCS meltdown still stings for Red Sox fans, so Beantown got itself another ace in Schilling. The Bronx Bombers, however, outdid their AL rivals once more as they acquired A-Rod and Kevin Brown. Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



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Gins coach out to end misery

ANTIPOLO—Siot Tanquingcen, winless as Barangay Ginebra coach, will rely heavily on his familiarity with San Miguel Beer, his former squad, in a bid to end his misery today in the Gran Matador Philippine Basketball Association Fiesta Conference.

Tanquingcen has lost his first four games since taking over from Allan Caidic, and he faces a team he knows so well in the 6:30 p.m. game scheduled at the Ynares Center.

San Miguel saw an eight-game winning streak snapped by the idle Coca-Cola Tigers, 85-88, a week ago.

It will be for Tanquingcen and his Gin Kings (3-6) to find out whether or not that loss only roused a sleeping giant.

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The youthful mentor proved a revelation when he handled San Miguel in an interim capacity in 2002, when the coaching staff headed by Jong Uichico answered the call for flag and country in the Busan Asian Games.

Tanquingcen, who served as chief deputy to Uichico for a long time, almost guided the Beermen to the Finals of the Reinforced Conference before, ironically, another struggling coach in this tournament won it for Purefoods.

Ryan Gregorio tries to snap a two-game losing streak for Purefoods when the Tender Juicy Hotdogs, who made a mark in futility just two nights back, clash with Alaska in the 4:10 p.m. contest.

The Hotdogs became the first team in five years to lose to a side without an import, bowing to Red Bull, 90-94, in overtime on Wednesday.

Musong Castillo, Contributor

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(Ynares Center)
4:10 p.m.—Alaska vs. Purefoods
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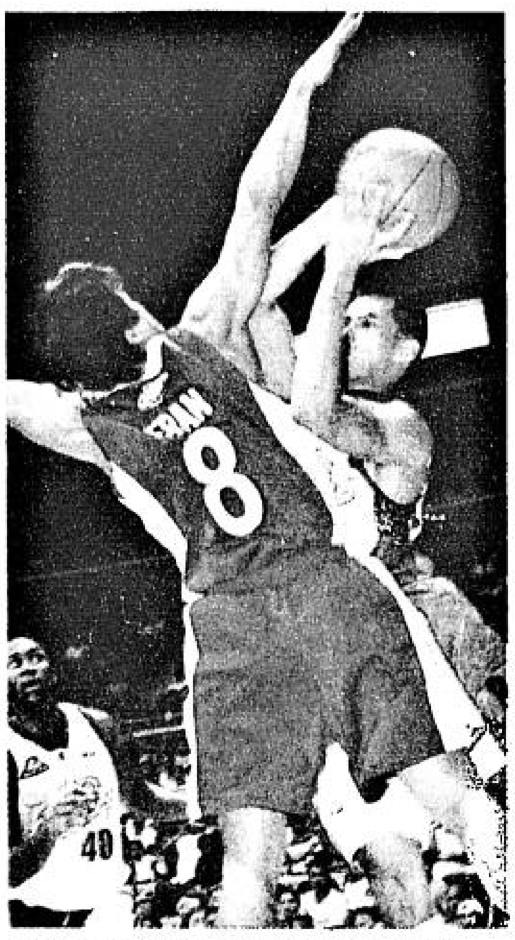


RONALD Tubid of Shell twists in mid-air to shoot off Patrick Fran of Talk 'N Text in the game Wednesday. Shell won. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Welcoat seeks No. 4 against Sunkist-UST

UNBEATEN Welcoat tries to stretch its winning run to four when it battles dangerous Sunkist-UST today in the 2004 PBL Unity Cup eliminations at the Pasig Sports Center.

The Paintmasters, conquerors of Viva Mineral Water before the Holy Week break, are slight favorites over the Tigers in their 2 p.m. encounter.

The Tigers go into the match still smarting from a 70-64 loss to Toyota Otis-Letran last Thursday, their first loss in four outings.

Defending champion Hapee Toothpaste starts out as slight favorite when it collides with winless BluStar Detergent in the second game at 4 p.m. *Trina Ibarle*

STANDINGS	W	L
Welcoat	3	0
Sunkist-UST	3	1
Viva-FEU	3	1
Hapee	2	1
Toyota-Letran	2	2
Montaña	1	3
BluStar	0	3
Lee P-Ateneo	0	3

GAMES TODAY
(Pasig Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Sunkist-UST vs Welcoat Paints
4 p.m.—Hapee vs BluStar

Inter-commercial chess starts

THE FIRST Inter-Commercial Chess team tournament gets under way at 12 noon today at the Trade Hall of Starmall on Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City.

Organized by Metropolitan Chess Club, the two-day chessfest offers a total pot of P70,000, with the champion team getting the top prize of P25,000 plus trophy.

Among the contenders are Yakult Phils., Pards & Mills Trading Inc., Dalig of Antipolo City, BPI, Office of the Muslim Affairs, PNOC-EDC, DECS, BOCS, GSIS, DAR, Steel Systems Engineering Phils., Napocor, Transco, PCSO, DENR, BFP, Navy, CLSU, SSC, UP, NU and PCU.

Spotlight on Shell again

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SUDDENLY, Shell is hogging the spotlight again. At the rate things are going for Shell, it may yet crowd Ginebra for the title as the most popular ballclub in the PBA today.

First, Shell had a rousing welcome for the season when it drafted the extremely talented Rich Alvarez, the two-time MVP of the UAAP. Rich's entry into the PBA came on the heels of his twin victories of helping power Fash to the PBL championship and earning a college diploma this year at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Second, Shell stunned everybody when it hired American John Moran as its coach despite a strong resistance from our "coach watchdog," the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines (BCAP).

Third, Moran, in a most bizarre move, benched Alvarez, the first round draft pick, in Alvarez's debut for Shell. Moran, known more as a trainer than coach, defied a public clamor to field in Alvarez in that game, which Shell went on to lose in an embarrassing manner. Despite Moran's impassioned reasoning that he benched Alvarez because Alvarez wasn't familiar yet with Moran's system of coaching, the American received flak for his indiscretion. Still, Shell clung to him. But after posting a 1-5 win-loss record, Moran finally got the boot.

Fourth, with Moran gone, Shell took in Leo Austria as head coach. For his assistants, Austria tapped three-time PBA MVP and two-time cager of the year in 1973 and 1974 Bogs Adornado and Dayong J. Mendoza. Mendoza was Ateneo's former scout coach under 2002 UAAP champion Ateneo coach Joel Banal aside from being Louie Alas' former deputy at the 2003 NCAA champion Letran Knights and Austria's assistant coach at two-time PBL victor Shark Energy Drink.

Austria's entry did draw a warm applause not only because Austria began his PBA career at Shell in 1985, the year he was voted Rookie of the Year, but also because, in the words of Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes, "Austria and his crew present a fresh twist to the coaching system in the PBA."

Since Austria took over, Shell is now 3-1 in its last four games in a stupendous rebound from its 1-5 standing under Moran. At 4-6, Shell is back on its feet.

But Shell's last victory—a 91-89 squeaker over Talk 'N Text on the winning freethrows of Tony dela Cruz with seconds remaining—had put the Turbo Chargers once more in the spotlight. Not so much because Shell's win was a huge upset over TNT despite a decimated lineup but more on Shell's brilliant discovery of a new import in Jameel Watkins, who replaced the pencil-thin Marek Ondera. Watkins had debuted for Shell on Wednesday with gargantuan numbers: 29 points on a high shooting percentage of 14-of-20, 23 rebounds and 7 blocked shots. If only for those numbers alone, Austria had struck a gold mine in Watkins.

"Watkins is a natural center and he is exactly the man we need as Shell import," said Austria. "With Watkins, we can now create mismatches."

And misimpressions, if not misconceptions.

Because of Watkins' explosive debut, Ricky Vargas, the TNT governor to the PBA board, thought the Shell import could be over the height limit of 6-foot-8. Vargas was reported as asking PBA Commissioner Noli Eala to re-measure Watkins, who was measured as 6-foot-7 and 7/8 of an inch on Tuesday.

If Vargas' move were true, I'd say Vargas had acted childishly.

Look, Aric del Rosario of TNT was a witness to the whole measuring proceedings. The respected Ricky Palou, a former PBA top banana, was also there. With these two admirable PBA personalities present, wouldn't Vargas in effect be questioning the integrity of his own man (Del Rosario), Palou and the rest of the other PBA factotums present at the measurement session that day?

My legman, Valentin Dakuykoy, has put it this way: Would Vargas have done the same if TNT won on Wednesday?

At any rate, Eala had all but killed moves to re-measure Watkins when he cited a PBA rule saying an appeal for a re-measurement of an import may only be granted if the import in question was measured beyond the 6-foot-8 limit.

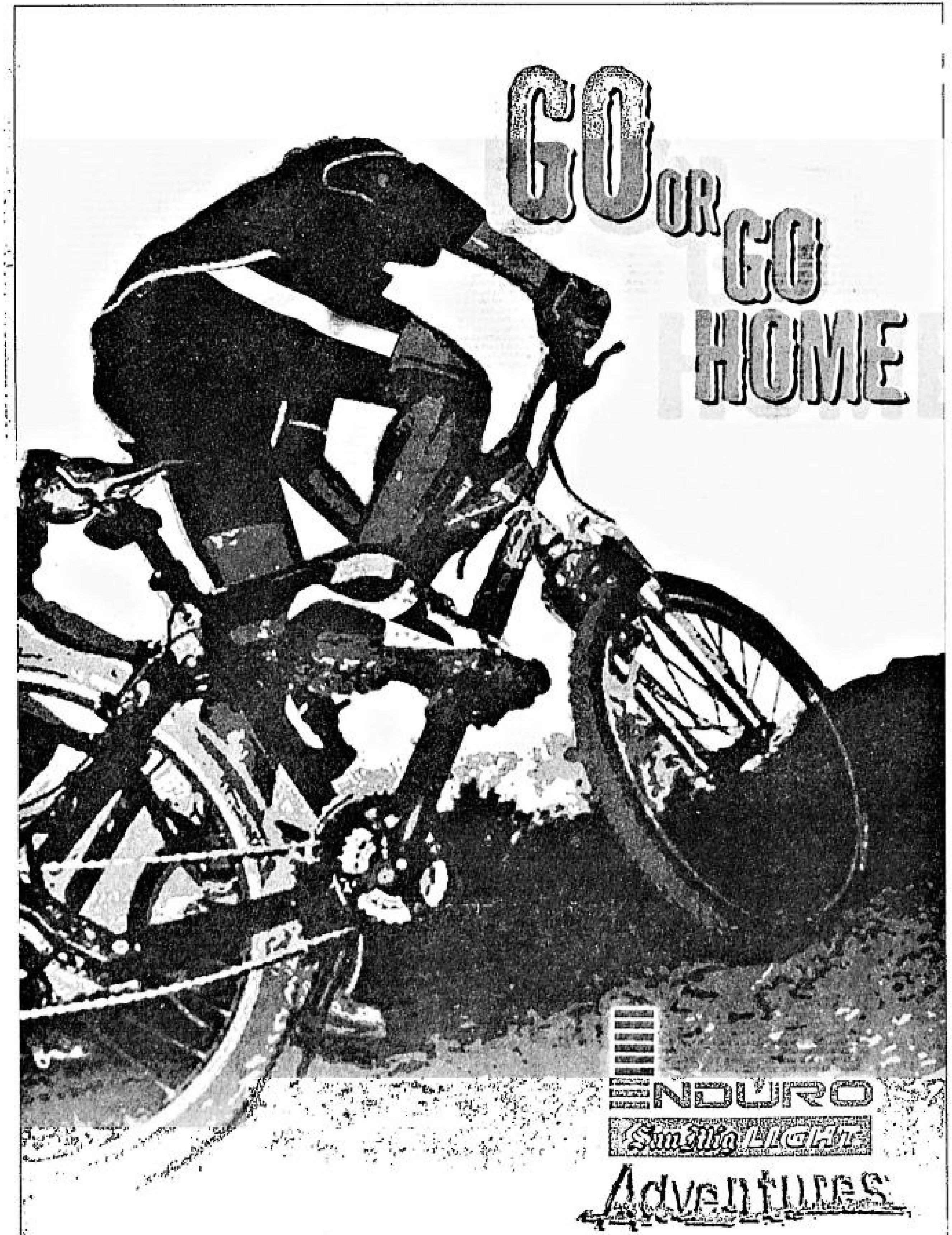
I can understand the concern of Vargas but it seems the basis for this furor over Watkins being allegedly more than 6-foot-8 are data from US publications listing Watkins as 6-foot-10 and 6-foot-11.

This is not to question the integrity of those publications but let me ask you this, fellas: Whom would you believe, America's magazines or our own institution that is the PBA?

No further questions, your honor.

***

FASTBREAK. Waldy Carbonell will host a cocktail party for his select friends at 7:30 p.m. today at his residence in Magallanes Village to inaugurate his "Kuwarenta'y Singko Minutos" program on NBN 4's Teledyaryo. Waldy, a very colorful lawyer whose exceptional exploits off the courtroom include walking 1,111 km in 1987 "for peace and ecology" and a hunger strike beginning on Dec. 5, 1985 in front of the US Embassy to protest "American imperialism in the country," is expected to draw millions to his reformatted program scheduled 9:15 to 10 p.m. every Saturday starting today. All the best, Waldy a-poe lakay!



The race is on! San Mig Light summons you to beat the clock and defy the odds. Go on an adventure in a day-long race that will get you to run, swim, jump, bike, rappel, kayak and more. For fun-seeking weekend warriors, P35,000 awaits in the Fun Category. For hardcore athletes, the finish line brings you P75,000. The starting gun fires in Boracay on April 24, 2004. Call (632)4128660 or visit www.sanmiglight.com.ph to register. Smart and Talk 'N Text subscribers may also text ENDURO to 386.

PASSION FOR GREAT OUTDOORS: Racers negotiate a winding forest trail.

Adventure racers ready for Boracay challenge

EXCITING Boracay Island will be the playground when racers again battle nature and compete against each other in the Enduro San Mig Light Adventure Race which unfurls on April 24.

The adventure event, started last year as San Mig Light's major sports event, has a nonsequential concept which makes use of multiple sports disciplines like orienteering, kayaking, swimming, trail running, rapelling, and mountain biking.

Race director Jerome Luengo, a veteran adventure racer himself, expects racers of both the hard-core and weekend sort to join the Boracay hostilities.

A veteran of the tough international Eco-Challenge 2001 in New Zealand, Luengo had joined local races including Carrera Habagat, Survival Challenge, Survival of the Fittest, Urban Jungle and the AXN Challenge.

Luengo, who with his brother Jason, developed the Boracay leg's race course, describes adventure racing as a way of life. He said a competitor must be of sound mind and body and have a passion for the great outdoors in order to be an adventure racer.

For inquiries, call the Enduro Hotline (02) 412 8660, text ENDURO at 386 (for Smart and Talk 'N Text subscribers) or visit www.sanmiglight.com.ph.

Ardina, Rodriguez triumph

BAGUIO—Red-hot Dottie Ardina and the vastly improved Cyna Rodriguez posted their second straight wins by big margins at the close Thursday of the Samsung-DHL Philippine Junior Golf Tour at the Camp John Hay course here.

Ardina fashioned another big victory after breaking par for the second straight round with a three-under 65 for a 207 aggregate and a 38-shot win in girls' Class D (9-10 years).

After pulling off a scrambling win in the first leg at Canlubang, it was a breeze this time for Rodriguez whose 70-223 gave her an 11-stroke victory over Paulina Sotto, the daughter of comedian-TV host Vic, in girls' Class C (11-12 years).

Bino dela Paz topped boys Class D while AR Ramos ruled Class E for their first wins.

The final round scores:

Class A: Boys-Lee Kwang-min 68-204, Nonoy Negrido 73-213, Min Lee-saung 75-219; Girls-Erika Salinas 94-294, Karen Cabaquinto 90-302, Debbie Yu 132-407; Class B: Boys-Lee Dong Geun 74-227, RJ Ramos 55-233, Jordan Mamaril 88-241; Girls-Bambi dela Paz 81-241, Sunshine Baraquiel 113-325; Class C: Boys-Steven Limandibrata 75-230, Joshua Cabrera 81-233, Emmanuel Kishida 82-244; Girls- Cyna Rodriguez 70-223, Paulina Sotto 80-244, Misha Solano 81-249; Class D: Bino dela Paz 78-233, Michael Limandibrata 83-237, Legrand Buan 89-292; Girls-Dottie Ardina 65-207, Ma-an Legaspi 81-245, Katya dela Cruz 84-252; Class E: Boys-AR Ramos 75-227, Tonton Arevalo 90-281, Justin Quiban 99-316; Girls- Felicia Medalla 110-342, Ariana Martinez 113-369; Class F: Boys-Rupert Zaragosa 73-248, Justin Dy 77-258, Ryan Monsalve 138-404; Girls-Abby Arevalo 81-260, Mia Legaspi 127-373

Gins coach out to end misery

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Sunkist-UST	3	1
Viva-FEU	3	1
Hapee	2	1
Toyota-Letran	2	2
Montaña	1	3
BluStar	0	3
Lee P-Ateneo	0	3

GAMES TODAY
(Pasig Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Sunkist-UST vs Welcoat Paints
4 p.m.—Hapee vs BluStar

UNBEATEN Welcoat tries to stretch its winning run to four when it battles dangerous Sunkist-UST today in the 2004 PBL Unity Cup eliminations at the Pasig Sports Center.

The Paintmasters, conquerors of Viva Mineral Water before the Holy Week break, are slight favorites over the Tigers in their 2 p.m. encounter.

The Tigers go into the match still smarting from a 70-64 loss to Toyota Otis-Letran last Thursday, their first loss in four outings.

Defending champion Hapee Toothpaste starts out as slight favorite when it collides with winless BluStar Detergent in the second game at 4 p.m. *Trina Ibarle*

Inter-commercial chess starts

THE FIRST Inter-Commercial Chess team tournament gets under way at 12 noon today at the Trade Hall of Starmall on Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City.

Organized by Metropolitan Chess Club, the two-day chessfest offers a total pot of P70,000, with the champion team getting the top prize of P25,000 plus trophy.

Among the contenders are Yakult Phils., Pards & Mills Trading Inc. Dalig of Antipolo City, BPI, Office of the Muslim Affairs, PNOC-EDC, DECS, BOCS, GSIS, DAR, Steel Systems Engineering Phils., Napocor, Transco, PCSO, DENR, BFP, Navy, CLSU, SSC, UP, NU and PCU.

Spotlight on Shell again

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SUDDENLY, Shell is hogging the spotlight again. At the rate things are going for Shell, it may yet crowd Ginebra for the title as the most popular ballclub in the PBA today.

First, Shell had a rousing welcome for the season when it drafted the extremely talented Rich Alvarez, the two-time MVP of the UAAP. Rich's entry into the PBA came on the heels of his twin victories of helping power Fash to the PBL championship and earning a college diploma this year at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Second, Shell stunned everybody when it hired American John Moran as its coach despite a strong resistance from our "coach watchdog," the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines (BCAP).

Third, Moran, in a most bizarre move, benched Alvarez, the first round draft pick, in Alvarez's debut for Shell. Moran, known more as a trainer than coach, defied a public clamor to field in Alvarez in that game, which Shell went on to lose in an embarrassing manner. Despite Moran's impassioned reasoning that he benched Alvarez because Alvarez wasn't familiar yet with Moran's system of coaching, the American received flak for his indiscretion. Still, Shell clung to him. But after posting a 1-5 win-loss record, Moran finally got the boot.

Fourth, with Moran gone, Shell took in Leo Austria as head coach. For his assistants, Austria tapped three-time PBA MVP and two-time cager of the year in 1973 and 1974 Bogs Adornado and Dayong J. Mendoza. Mendoza was Ateneo's former scout coach under 2002 UAAP champion Ateneo coach Joel Banal aside from being Louie Alas' former deputy at the 2003 NCAA champion Letran Knights and Austria's assistant coach at two-time PBL victor Shark Energy Drink.

Austria's entry did draw a warm applause not only because Austria began his PBA career at Shell in 1985, the year he was voted Rookie of the Year, but also because, in the words of Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes, "Austria and his crew present a fresh twist to the coaching system in the PBA."

Since Austria took over, Shell is now 3-1 in its last four games in a stupendous rebound from its 1-5 standing under Moran. At 4-6, Shell is back on its feet.

But Shell's last victory—a 91-89 squeaker over Talk 'N Text on the winning freethrows of Tony dela Cruz with seconds remaining—had put the Turbo Chargers once more in the spotlight. Not so much because Shell's win was a huge upset over TNT despite a decimated lineup but more on Shell's brilliant discovery of a new import in Jameel Watkins, who replaced the pencil-thin Marek Ondera. Watkins had debuted for Shell on Wednesday with gargantuan numbers: 29 points on a high shooting percentage of 14-of-20, 23 rebounds and 7 blocked shots. If only for those numbers alone, Austria had struck a gold mine in Watkins.

"Watkins is a natural center and he is exactly the man we need as Shell import," said Austria. "With Watkins, we can now create mismatches."

And misimpressions, if not misconceptions.

Because of Watkins' explosive debut, Ricky Vargas, the TNT governor to the PBA board, thought the Shell import could be over the height limit of 6-foot-8. Vargas was reported as asking PBA Commissioner Noli Eala to re-measure Watkins, who was measured as 6-foot-7 and 7/8 of an inch on Tuesday.

If Vargas' move were true, I'd say Vargas had acted childishly.

Look, Aric del Rosario of TNT was a witness to the whole measuring proceedings. The respected Ricky Palou, a former PBA top banana, was also there. With these two admirable PBA personalities present, wouldn't Vargas in effect be questioning the integrity of his own man (Del Rosario), Palou and the rest of the other PBA factotums present at the measurement session that day?

My legman, Valentin Dakuykoy, has put it this way: Would Vargas have done the same if TNT won on Wednesday?

At any rate, Eala had all but killed moves to re-measure Watkins when he cited a PBA rule saying an appeal for a re-measurement of an import may only be granted if the import in question was measured beyond the 6-foot-8 limit.

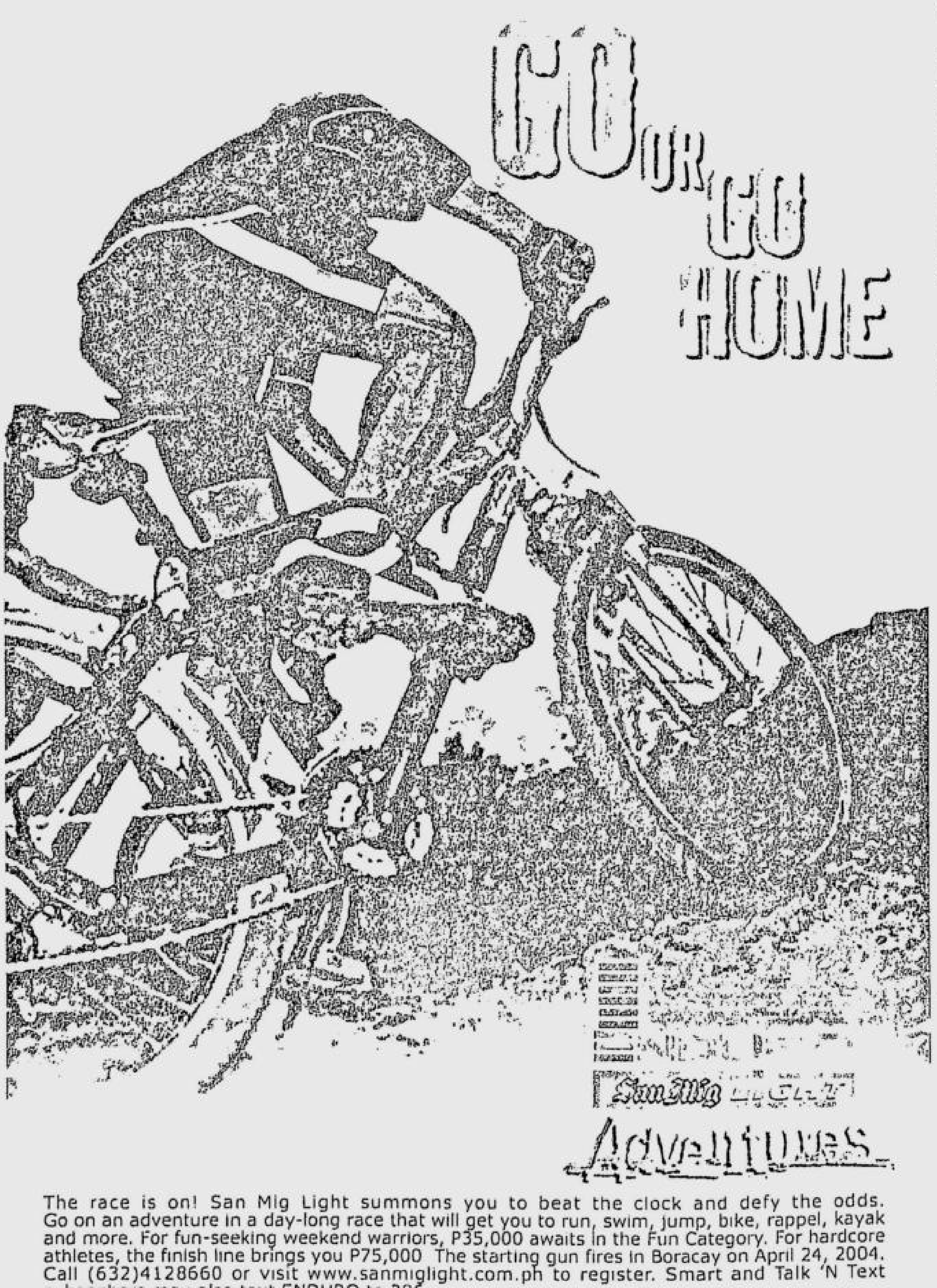
I can understand the concern of Vargas but it seems the basis for this furor over Watkins being allegedly more than 6-foot-8 are data from US publications listing Watkins as 6-foot-10 and 6-foot-11.

This is not to question the integrity of those publications but let me ask you this, fellas: Whom would you believe, America's magazines or our own institution that is the PBA?

No further questions, your honor.

* * *

FASTBREAK. Waldy Carbonell will host a cocktail party for his select friends at 7:30 p.m. today at his residence in Magallanes Village to inaugurate his "Kuwarenta'y Singko Minutos" program on NBN 4's Teledyaryo. Waldy, a very colorful lawyer whose exceptional exploits off the courtroom include walking 1,111 km in 1987 "for peace and ecology" and a hunger strike beginning on Dec. 5, 1985 in front of the US Embassy to protest "American imperialism in the country," is expected to draw millions to his reformatted program scheduled 9:15 to 10 p.m. every Saturday starting today. All the best, Waldy a-poe lakay!



The race is on! San Mig Light summons you to beat the clock and defy the odds. Go on an adventure in a day-long race that will get you to run, swim, jump, bike, rappel, kayak and more. For fun-seeking weekend warriors, P35,000 awaits in the Fun Category. For hardcore athletes, the finish line brings you P75,000 The starting gun fires in Boracay on April 24, 2004. Call (632)4128660 or visit www.sanmiglight.com.ph to register. Smart and Talk 'N Text subscribers may also text ENDURO to 386.

PASSION FOR GREAT OUTDOORS: Racers negotiate a winding forest trail.

Adventure racers ready for Boracay challenge

EXCITING Boracay Island will be the playground when racers again battle nature and compete against each other in the Enduro San Mig Light Adventure Race which unfurls on April 24.

The adventure event, started last year as San Mig Light's major sports event, has a nonsequential concept which makes use of multiple sports disciplines like orienteering, kayaking, swimming, trail running, rapelling, and mountain biking.

Race director Jerome Luengo, a veteran adventure racer himself, expects racers of both the hard-core and weekend sort to join the Boracay hostilities.

A veteran of the tough international Eco Challenge 2001 in New Zealand, Luengo has joined local races including Carrera Habagat, Survival Challenge, Survival of the Fittest, Urban Jungle and the AXN Challenge.

Luengo, who with his brother Jason, developed the Boracay leg's race course, describes adventure racing as a way of life. He said a competitor must be of sound mind and body and have a passion for the great outdoors in order to be an adventure racer.

For inquiries, call the Enduro Hotline (02) 412 8660, text ENDURO at 386 (for Smart and Talk 'N Text subscribers) or visit www.sanmiglight.com.ph.

Ardina, Rodriguez triumph

BAGUIO—Red-hot Dottie Ardina and the vastly improved Cyna Rodriguez posted their second straight wins by big margins at the close Thursday of the Samsung-DHL Philippine Junior Golf Tour at the Camp John Hay course here.

Ardina fashioned another big victory after breaking par for the second straight round with a three-under 65 for a 207 aggregate and a 38-shot win in girls' Class D (9-10 years).

After pulling off a scrambling win in the first leg at Canlubang, it was a breeze this time for Rodriguez whose 70-223 gave her an 11-stroke victory over Paulina Sotto, the daughter of comedian-TV host Vic, in girls' Class C (11-12 years).

Bino dela Paz topped boys Class D while AR Ramos ruled Class E for their first wins.

The final round scores:

Class A: Boys-Lee Kwang-min 68-204, Nonuy Negrido 73-213, Min Lee-saung 75-219; Girls-Erika Salinas 94-294, Karen Cabaquinto 90-302, Debbie Yu 132-407; Class B: Boys-Lee Dong Geun 74-227, RJ Ramos 55-233, Jordan Mamari 88-241; Girls-Bambi dela Paz 81-241, Sunshine Baraquiel 113-325; Class C: Boys-Steven Limandibrata 75-230, Joshua Cat era 81-233, Emmanuel Kishida 82-244; Girls- Cyna Rodriguez 70-223, Paulina Sotto 80-244, Misha Solano 81-249; Class D: Bino dela Paz 78-233, Michael Limandibrata 83-237, Legrand Buan 89-292; Girls-Dottie Ardina 65-207, Ma-an Legaspi 8 245, Katya dela Cruz 84-252; Class E: Boys-AR Ramos 75-22 Tonton Arevalo 90-281, Justin Quiban 99-316; Girls- Felicia Medalla 110-342, Ariana Martinez 113-369; Class F: Boys-R port Zaragosa 73-248, Justin Dy 77-258, Ryan Monsalve 138-404, Girls-Abby Arevalo 81-260, Mia Legaspi 127-373

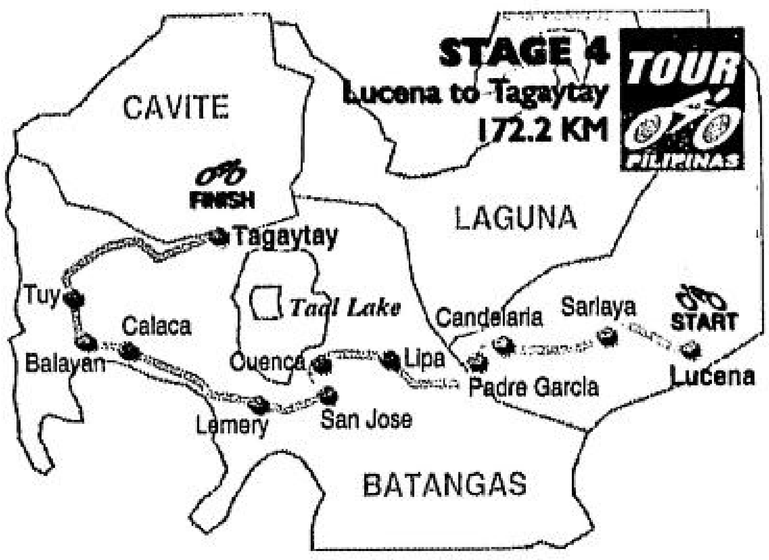
Overall individual standings (After Stage 2)

M. Ramos 5:33:19
E. Obosa 7 secs. behind
A. Marcelo 10 secs. behind
E. Quinones 18 secs. behind
F. Celeste 19 secs. behind
V. Baluyot 55 secs. behind
W. Davadilla 57 secs. behind
L. Reynante, A. Primero 1:01 mins. behind
R. Tanguilig, A. Quirimit & 6 others 1:03 mins. behind

2004 TOUR PILIPINAS
PRESENTED BY AIR 21

Ramos tops 2nd lap, grabs yellow jersey

From page A25



Ramos, after coming home a wheel ahead of Samsung teammate Ericson Obosa and Mail and More's Arnold Marcelo.

The three clocked two hours, 13 minutes and 15 seconds for the 98-km lap, with Ramos wresting the lead from first-lap winner Felix Celeste with a total time of 5 hours, 33 minutes and 19 seconds.

Ramos finished seven seconds ahead of Obosa, with Marcelo third overall just 10 seconds behind. Eusebio Quiñones was 18 seconds behind in fourth.

Celeste was in an original seven-man lead pack going up the Summit Point near the famous Bundok ng Susong Dalaga outside Sipocot.

But Celeste, along with tour favorite and former champion Victor Espiritu, fell back as Ramos, Obosa, Marcelo, Ronald Gorantes and Purefoods' Eusebio Quinones poured it on after the climb.

Celeste dropped to fifth overall just 19 seconds off the leader. Rounding off the top 10 are Villamor Baluyot, sixth, (55 seconds behind); Warren Davadilla (57), and Lloyd Reynante and Albert Primero, who tied for eighth (1:01).

Defending champion Arnel Quirimit was tied for 10th with seven others, 1:03 off Ramos.

The 1-2 Ramos-Obosa finish for the day boosted Samsung further ahead in the P1-million race for the top team prize with a lead of 2:05 minutes over Dole. Purefoods was third, 2:33 behind.

A native of Tarlac, Ramos said he decided to go for stage honors after the rated riders spent the early part of the race closely watching each other.

"I was very sure of victory entering the final 10 km," he said.

Ramos, who was third in the first lap behind Davadilla, is best remembered last year for wearing the yellow jersey for six straight stages until Arnel Quirimit stripped it from him in Vigan and wore it for good.

"I decided to take it easy in the final 20 km," said Celeste. "I just wanted to pace myself and not worry about the yellow jersey."

Quirimit also didn't show any apprehension. He is in a tie for 10th place overall, 1:03 minutes behind the leader.

But the pride of Pozzorubio, Pangasinan, vowed to start making his move starting in today's third stage to Lucena City, a 207-km lap that features a climb and a treacherous downhill run on the Tatlong Eme route inside the Quezon National Park in Atimonan.

The riders rode in one big bunch from Naga City and only broke up into small groups along the so-called Bitukang Manok, a dizzying series of uphill-downhill winding road near the boundary of the two Camarines provinces.

From there, Ramos, an Army private first class, stayed with the front-runners, conserving his strength in the slipstream behind Obosa who didn't really plan to win the stage.

Espiritu finished in the big fourth pack with Quirimit and stood 34th overall, 2:44 minutes off Ramos.

Medics not too busy

DAET, Camarines Norte—The journey is taxing and the sun unforgiving, but the road and the weather are not the main problems for the 84 cyclists.

So far, it's loose bowel movement or LBM that's causing the field a lot of trouble.

Dr. Rizaldy Bulatao, Tour physician, happily reported that medical cases have been few and far between compared to last year. And so far, there are no accidents on the road or any injuries to the cyclists.

But at least two cyclists have been downed by LBM just before the Tour started in Sorsogon two days ago.

Alfie Catalan of Marsman Drysdale complained of LBM before Thursday's first stage, and last Monday, two-time champion Renato Dolosa spent a night in a Sorsogon hospital because of food poisoning.

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Per DTI-NCR permit no. 1022 series of 2004

Champ Quirimit sees major shake-up today

DAET, Camarines Norte—Tanduay captain Arnel Quirimit, seeking to accomplish what only a few riders before him have done, expects a major shake-up in the standings of the 2004 Air21 Tour Pilipinas cycling marathon today.

From this bustling town, the 84 intrepid cyclists travel to Lucena City on a long journey over 207.1 km that will be highlighted by an ascent and a treacherous downhill run along the dreaded "Tatlong Eme" in Atimonan town in Quezon.

"It's the first difficult lap," Quirimit said in Tagalog after yesterday's easy second lap. "I'm sure there will be a major revamp in the standings because the big guns will be asserting themselves."

He added that the rated riders will be going for breakaways instead of spending time guarding each other.

Quirimit arrived yesterday in the middle of a heavy 76-man wave that included most of the Tour's big guns. The pack checked in 49 seconds behind Ramos.

STAGE 2 RESULTS

1. M. Ramos (Samsung)

2. E. Obosa (Samsung) 3. A. Marcelo (Mail and More) **2:13:15**

4. E. Quiñones(Purefoods) **4 seconds behind**

5.R. Gorantes (Metro Drug) **6 secs. behind**

6.N. Estayo (Vat Riders), C. Jasul (Beer na Beer), R. Hualda (Purefoods), A. Primero (Dole), L. Atiano (Mail and More), A. Quirimit (Tanduay), G. Apolinar (Postmen), J. Guillen (Samsung), R. Tanguilig (PLDT), G. Asiado (Patrol 117), P. Valdez (Patrol 117), J. Dasalla (PLDT), B. Lopez Jr. (PLDT), L. Reynante (Postmen), R. Villaber (Metro Drug), P. Manapul (Marsman), V. Baluyot (Samsung), R. Mendoza (PLDT), A. Benedicto (Beer na Beer), R. Navarro (Tanduay), W. Davadilla (Purefoods), S. Barnachea (Mail and More), Vic Espiritu (Beer na Beer), C. Guieb (Marsman), T. Martinez (Beer na Beer), D. Valdez (Patrol 117), J. Garillo (Mail and More), M. Robosa (Tanduay), S. Servino (Tanduay), S. Diamsay (PLDT), W. Calosa (Tanduay), P. Julle (Tanduay), J. Millanes (Postmen), O. Villanueva (Dole), L. Lingas (Postmen), D. Marana (Marsman), B. Stalin (Purefoods), J. Garcia (Vat Riders), B. Ravina (Vat Riders), D. Mendoza (Samsung), P. Curtan (Patrol 117), E. Feliciano (Patrol 117), J. Talaver (Purefoods), D. Cagas (Dole), D. Tacutacu (Purefoods) **49 secs.** behind.

Team Standings

1. Samsung 16:41:00
2. Dole 2:05 behind
3. Purefoods 2:33 behind
4. Postmen 3:23 behind
5. Patrol 117 3:49 behind
6. Metro Drug 4:47 behind
7. Beer na Beer 5:17 behind
8. PLDT 5:30 behind
9. Tanduay 5:30 behind
10. Marsman 5:56 behind
11. VAT Raiders 6:38 behind
12. Mail and More 10:12 behind

DepEd Bacolod gains trip to World Series

TANAUAN CITY, Batangas—DepEd Bacolod dethroned defending champion International Little League Association of Manila (ILLAM) with a five-game 14-0 rout yesterday to rule the Big League (16-18) girls' softball championship of the 2004 Philippine Little League Series at the Plantacion del Sol field here.

Four pitchers combined in the no-hit, shutout victory that earned the Bacolod-based nine a trip to Kalamazoo, Michigan, to represent the country and Asia-Pacific region in the World Softball Series this August.

Starter Jerha Mae Caburog pitched for two innings and allowed only one ILLAM batter to reach base on a walk then Chonalyn Semaniano, Johanna Caunga and Cloiene Muyco retired the side in 1-2-3 fashions in successive one-inning stints to highlight the mismatch.

The new champion scored four runs in the second inning on five hits then erupted for 10 runs in the fourth behind a six-hit barrage aided by a spate of errors by ILLAM, which earlier took an 11-1 spanking from DepEd Bacolod at the start of their best-of-three title series.

Two other DepEd Bacolod teams are in hot pursuit of the girls' softball titles in the Little League (11-12) and Junior League (13-14) divisions.

Bacolod won the Junior League division in the world series in Kirkland, Washington, last year.

In Little League baseball, Regine Sta. Ana, Bulacan's "Home Run Boy," pitched a no-hitter and the Bulakeños peppered Makati with 16 hits en route to a 10-0 shutout win.

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Marquez vows to 'poison' Pacquiao

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

CERTAIN that Manny Pacquiao would spew venom, reigning WBA/IBF featherweight titlist Juan Manuel "Dinamita" Marquez yesterday vowed to meet "poison with poison" when he tangles with the consensus featherweight king on May 8 at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

For the first time, the 30-year-old Marquez (42-2; 33 KO's) bared a key strategy: match Pacquiao's strength, if not better it.

Marquez said he's working to be quicker than Pacquiao (38-2-1, 30 KO's) under the supervision of his trainer, Ignacio "Nacho" Beristain, renowned for having molded the likes of Ricardo Lopez and Julio Cesar Chavez.

"I have understood that he (Manny Pacquiao) already counts myself among his victims and that he already plans to face Erik Morales," said Marquez who assured fight fans he will derail Pacquiao's plans and will not surrender the belts he had won through much hard work.

Marquez, now working out at the Romanza Gym in Mexico following weeks of high-altitude training at the Toluca Mountains, also said that if he were to avoid Pacquiao's "poisonous blows," he will have to keep his right hand up at all times, since Pacquiao is considered "quick, strong and skillful."

"Against Pacquiao, I will have to fight with the same intensity in every round, using good defense and, above all, launching the same blows," Marquez emphasized in an interview with Mexican boxing writer Jesus Lopez.

NESTEA BEACH VOLLEY

SWU, 3 others still unscathed

BORACAY—Defending champion Southwestern University delivered a strong message by winning its two matches yesterday like three other women's teams in the Nestea Beach Volley 2004 in this sun-blessed tropical island.

The Southwestern spikers, Florian Gutierrez and Marites Natad, posted a 21-10 victory over upset-conscious University of Baguio in a high noon contest then returned later in the afternoon to beat University of Mindanao Tagum in a thrilling encounter, 21-15.

Also gaining ground in the women's division of the event offering P100,000 to the men's and women's champions were 2002 winner Adamson and University of Negros Occidental Recoletos and Letran. Like Southwestern, they had 2-0 slates but Adamson took the top spot due to a higher quotient.

The eight other teams in the women's side will see action this morning (5 vs 12, 6 vs 11, 7 vs 10 and 8 vs 9) with the winners taking on the four ranked teams in the afternoon. The top four will play in the semis Sunday morning with the finals set in the afternoon.

In the semis and the finals, the best-of-three, 21-point format will be applied. A deciding third set, however, will be for only 15 points.

Sponsoring the summer event are Mikasa, Speedo, Coppertone, SMART Buddy, Cebu Pacific, Ayala Center, TGI Friday's, Power Plant Mall and Le Soleil de Boracay.

Adamson, a serious threat to Southwestern's title-retention campaign, crushed Ateneo de Davao (21-13) and University of San Agustin (21-10). UNO-R downed College of St. Benilde (21-10) and Holy Cross Davao College (22-20) while Letran scored against Mindanao State University (21-13) and University of the Visayas (21-17).

Chess groups resume war

LAWYER Sammy Estimo, secretary general of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines yesterday accused NCFP executive director Casto Abundo of putting words into his mouth in the press release sent by Abundo Thursday.

Estimo particularly cited the paragraph which said "that the children, whose ages range from 9 to 18, failed to get their allowances because the amount was used to pay the NCFP's arrears with the International Chess Federation (Fide)."

"Not once did I state orally or in writing that the PSC financial assistance of P438,000 was used to pay the NCFP arrears for Fide dues," Estimo said.

Estimo maintained it was lawyer Mat Defensor, the NCFP president, "who paid the Fide dues with his own money because Fide honorary president Florencio Campomanes did not remit to the world chess federation the amounts that I gave him as payment of the NCFP arrears."

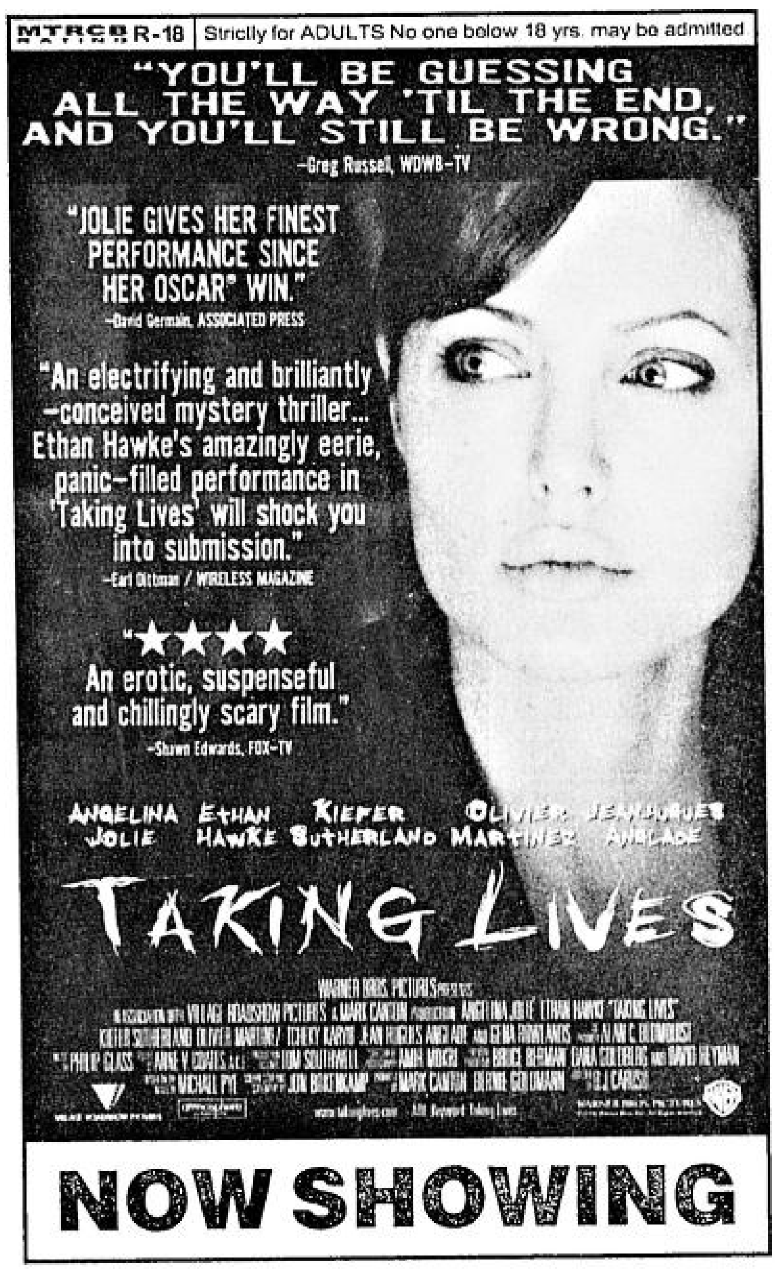
Campomanes yesterday vehemently denied Estimo's claim and dared Estimo to produce documents that would prove that he indeed received the money.

"He's a liar, I dare him to produce documents," Campomanes said.

Estimo also alleged that Abundo was the first person to benefit from the amount given by the FG Foundation through a P150,000 check issued to Abundo and received by Campomanes, as Abundo was in Russia then.

Abundo said the P150,000 was but a partial payment for the half million (pesos) in cash and chess clocks Estimo and the NCFP under Grandmaster Eugene Torre owed him since 2001.

"We have documents to prove what we are saying," said Abundo.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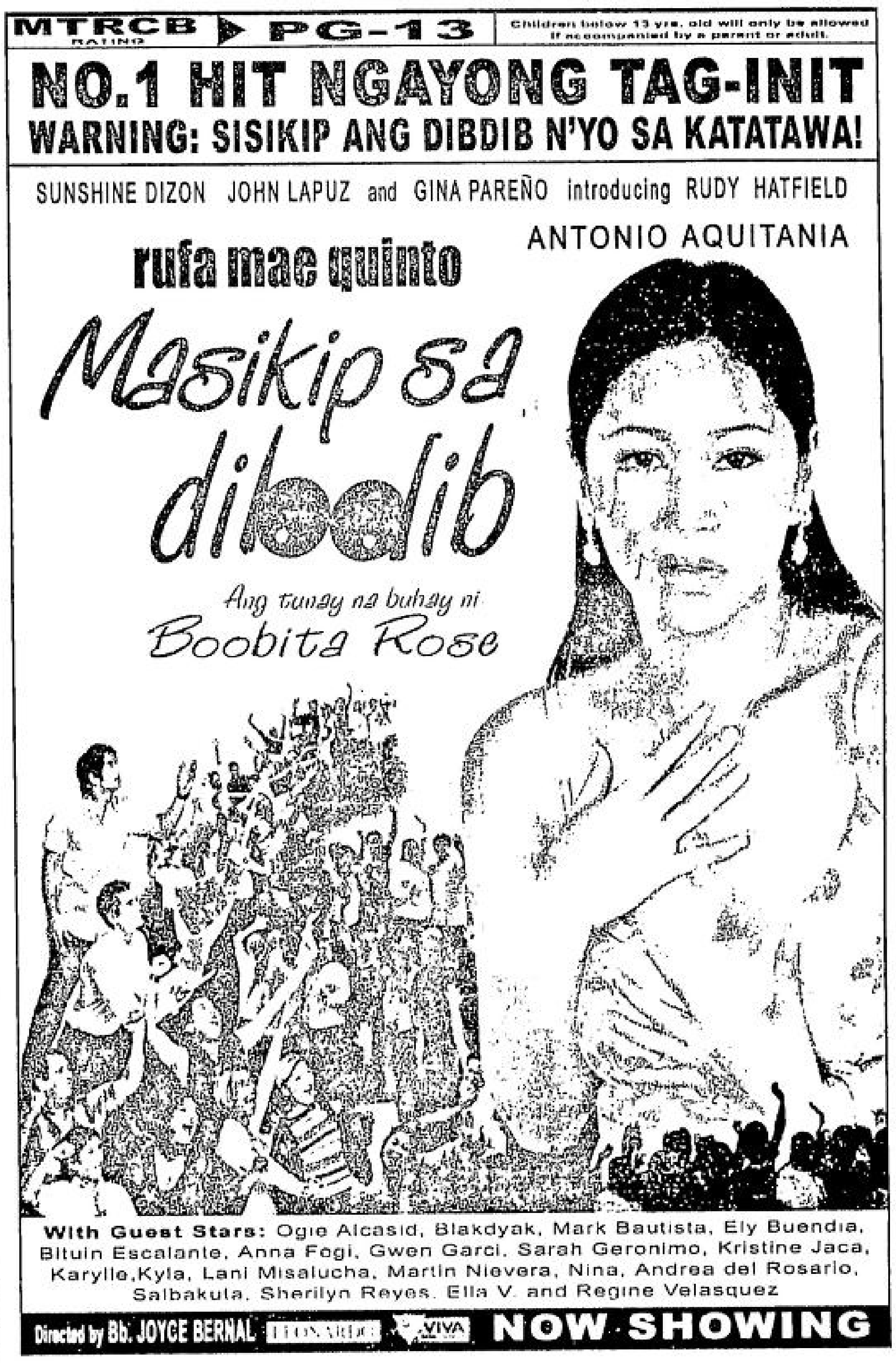
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With Guest Stars: Ogie Alcasid, Blakdyak, Mark Bautista, Ely Buendia, Bituin Escalante, Anna Fegi, Gwen Garci, Sarah Geronimo, Kristine Jaca, Karylle, Kyla, Lani Misalucha, Martin Nievera, Nina, Andrea del Rosario, Salbakula, Sherilyn Reyes, Ella V. and Regine Velasquez
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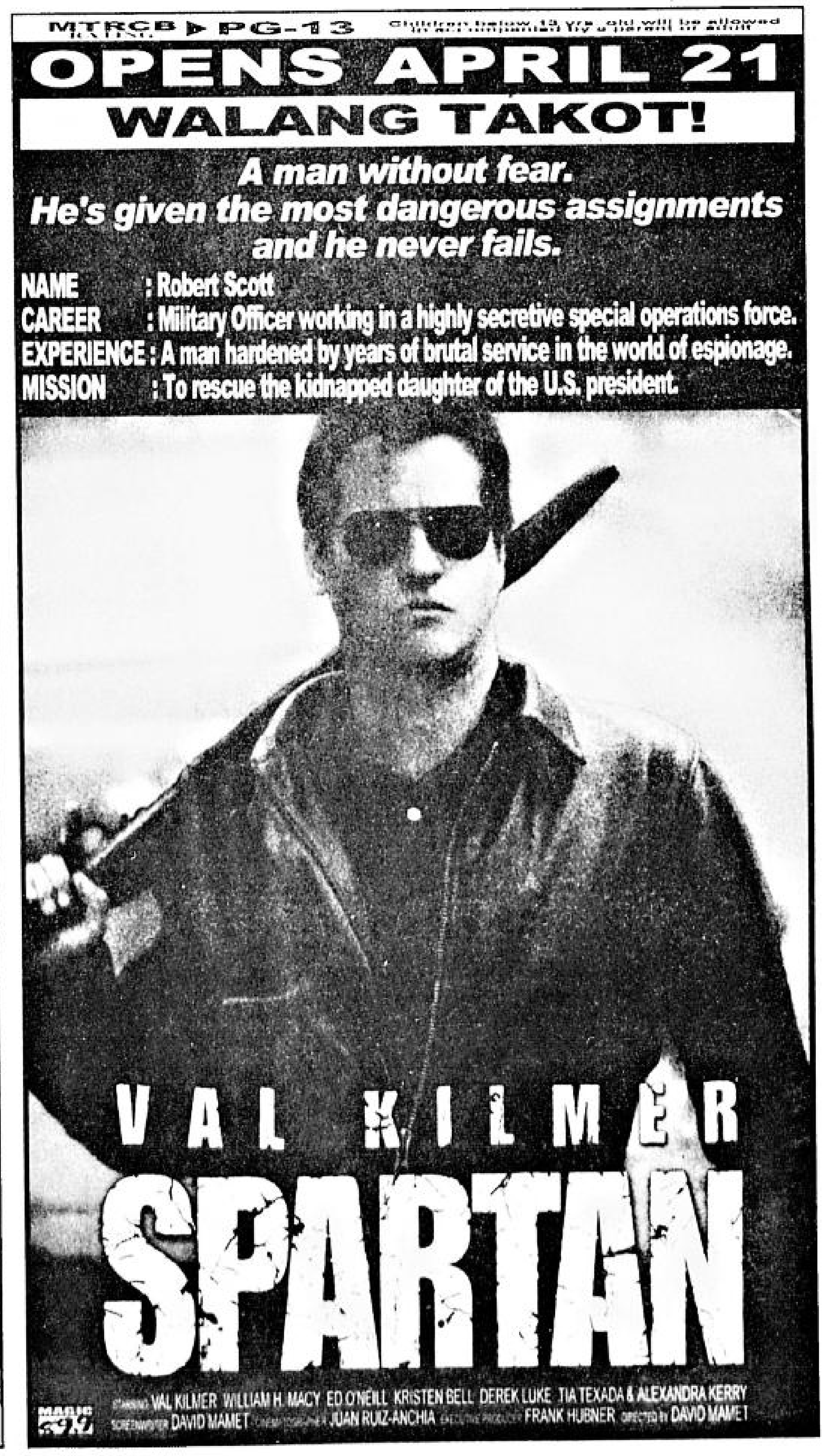
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A man without fear.
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EXPERIENCE : A man hardened by years of brutal service in the world of espionage.
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DAVID MAMET JUAN RUIZ-ANCHIA FRANK HUBNER DAVID MAMET

Nat'l karate lures 1,000

THE PHILIPPINE Karatedo Federation will hold its 19th National Open and age group championships on April 19-25 at the Xavier Sports and Country Club gymnasium in Cagayan de Oro City.

More than 1,000 karatekas from 50 clubs all over the country are expected to vie for honors in the tourney where winners in the senior competitions will qualify for the national training pool.

Among the clubs that have confirmed their participation are Karate Sports and Arts (KSA), Japan Karate Association Lipa (JKA), Shotokan Karate International (SKI), Association for the Advancement of Karatedo (AAK), Shotokan Karate Academy (SKA), Philippine Shorinyu Karate Association (PSKA), Shin-Shin Karate and Laguna Karate Federation, Japan Karate Association Orient Inc. Cebu, Association of Shotokan Karate and Do-Kyohan Karate Association.

Also expected to compete are teams from General Santos City, Marawi State University, Zamboanga City, Davao City and host Cagayan de Oro City.

A referee's course, coaches and kata seminars and national rank examination will be held on April 19-21. Age group action follows on April 22-23 while the senior competitions will be staged April 24-25.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Ali 3	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
Ali 4	TAKING LIVES
Ali 5	PETER PAN
Ali 6	THE UNINVITED
Ali 7	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB

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ARANETA COLISEUM

APR 17	JESUS LORD & SAVIOR LORD'S FLOCK 18TH ANNIV
APR 18	PBA : COKE VS. FEDEX
APR 20	NCA 7 - COCK DERBY
APR 21	PBA : SHELL VS. SAN MIGUEL
APR 22	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
APR 24	MY GIFT PIOLO PASCUAL 1ST TIME IN CONCERT
APR 25	PBA : COKE VS. PUREFOODS
APR 28	PBA : TALK N' TEXT VS. ALASKA
APR 30	ANDREA BOCELLI LIVE IN MANILA

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	LIGAYA / NANABIK
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ITLOG
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ACACIA
CINEMA-2	PUNLA
CINEMA-3	UNINVITED
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCOOBY DOO 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
CINEMA-6	SORUM
CINEMA-7	NANANABIK
CINEMA-8	VENUS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PAYCHECK
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PETER PAN
CINEMA-12	TAKING LIVES
CINEMA-14	TWISTED
CINEMA-15	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	SCOOBY DOO 2
CINEMA-1	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-2	HIDALGO
CINEMA-4	GRUDGE 2
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972
RESERVED SEATING
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
PG-13

2 PAY CHECK
12:05, 2:45, 5:25
8:05, 10:45
PG-13

3 PETER PAN
11:20, 1:40, 4:00
6:20, 8:40, 10:55
GP

4 TAKING LIVES
11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
R-18

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

TWISTED R13 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20	PETER PAN GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	TAKING LIVES R18 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05, 10:20
THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST PG13 11:40, 2:10, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10	PETER PAN R13 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00	PAYCHECK PG13 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30

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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
PAYCHECK
11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50
P13

CINEMA 2
PETER PAN
11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
GP

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APR 26, 27	"GARY V"	8:00PM

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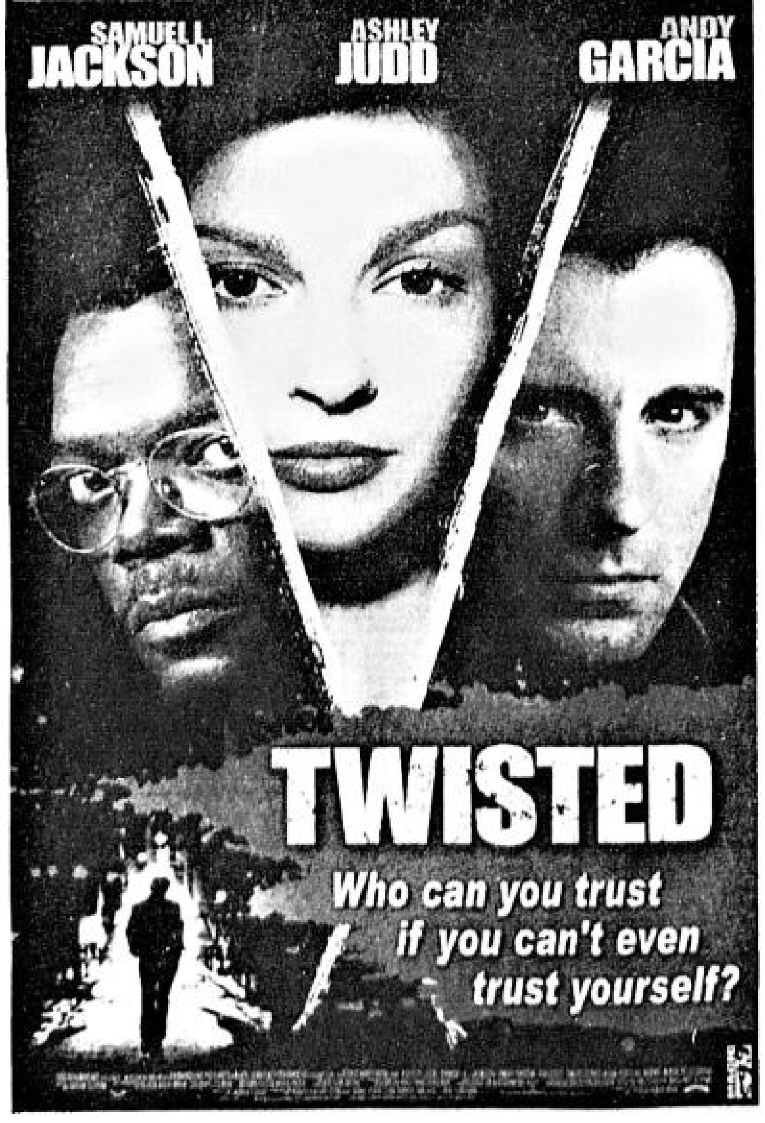

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 (SDDS) SCOOBY DOO 2
3 (DTS) PAY CHECK
4 GOLD (DTS) PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 GOLD (DOLBY) TWISTED
6 GOLD (SDDS) TAKING LIVES
7 GOLD (DOLBY) MISSING
8 BOOBITA ROSE
9 ACACIA
10 PETER PAN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) PAY CHECK
2 (DOLBY) PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 (DOLBY) TAKING LIVES
4 (DOLBY) PETER PAN

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 TWISTED
3 ACACIA

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 TAKING LIVES
BOOBITA ROSE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) TWISTED
5

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 TAKING LIVES
2 BOOBITA ROSE
3 TWISTED
4 PETER PAN
5 PAY CHECK
6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004
1 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
2 SCOOBY DOO-2

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) tel 892.2503
THX

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
2 GOTHIKA

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 MASIKIP
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA
Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
5 RESERVE
6
7 (DTS)
8 (SDDS)
9 (DOLBY)

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 TAKING LIVES
2 PETER PAN
3 BOOBITA ROSE
4 (SDDS) TWISSTED
5 PAY CHECK
6 (DOLBY) PASSION OF THE CHRIST
7 (DTS) HOUSE OF THE DEAD
8 VENUS
9 ACACIA

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 RESERVE
2 (SDDS)
3 (DTS)
4 (DOLBY)
5

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 ACACIA
2 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
3 (DTS) TAKING LIVES
4 BOOBITA ROSE
5 (SDDS) PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson
Lords

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 TWISSTED
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 PETER PAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 PAYCHECK
3 TWISSTED
4 BOOBITA ROSE
5 TAKING LIVES

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 ACACIA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
MALL CINEPLEX 7
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BOOBITA ROSE
4 (SDDS) PAYCHECK
5 (DTS) PASSION OF CHRIST
6 PETER PAN
7 TAKING LIVES

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) PAY CHECK
2 BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DTS ES) PASSION OF CHRIST
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 PAYCHECK
3 (DOLBY) CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4 (DTS) PASSION OF CHRIST

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 ACACIA
3 (DOLBY) PAY CHECK
4 (DTS) 50 FIRST DATE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 PAYCHECK
3 (DTS) PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 (DTS) DEATH CURSE
3 (DOLBY) PAY CHECK
4 PETER PAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 (DOLBY) PETER PAN
3 (DTS) PAY CHECK
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 50 FIRST DATE
2 GRUDGE-2
3 (DOLBY) SCOOBY DOO-2

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 HAUNTED OFFICE
2 HIDALGO
3 (DOLBY) BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
4 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320
1 PASSION OF CHRIST
2 BOOBITA ROSE
3 HIDALGO

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
2 KARIBAL
3 PORNOGRAPHER
4 (DTS) BOOBITA ROSE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) PETER PAN
2 BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DTS) PAY CHECK
4 TAKING LIVES
5 HIGHWAY MEN

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 VENUS
2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 PETER PAN
2 TAKING LIVES
3 BOOBITA ROSE

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 GRUDGE-2
2 50 FIRST DATE
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO-2
4 (DOLBY) BOOBITA ROSE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914
1 (DTS) RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 THE GRUDGE-2
3 HIDALGO
4 TAKING LIVES

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 KARIBAL

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

SCOOBY-DOO 2
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

Central

MEGAMALL
6331901
1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 TWISTED
3 TAKING LIVES
4 PAYCHECK
5 PETER PAN
6 50 FIRST DATES
7 SCOOBY DOO 2
8 ACACIA
9 BOOBITA ROSE
10 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
11 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
12 THE UNINVITED

CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
2 SCOOBY DOO 2
3 OTSO OTSO
4 PAYCHECK
5 TAKING LIVES
6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
7 ACACIA
8 PETER PAN
9 BOOBITA ROSE
10 50 FIRST DATES
11 THE UNINVITED
12 TWISTED

CITY MANILA
5239240
1 TAKING LIVES
2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 50 FIRST DATES
4 PAYCHECK
5 PETER PAN
6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
7 UNINVITED
8 ACACIA
9 BOOBITA ROSE
10 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
11 TWISTED
12 BOOBITA ROSE

CITY NORTH EDSA
9285452
1 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
2 PETER PAN
3 BOOBITA ROSE
4 ACACIA
5 TWISTED
6 TAKING LIVES
7 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
8 PAYCHECK

CITY STA. MESA
7149522 • 7181418
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 UNINVITED
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 TWISTED
5 PAYCHECK
6 ACACIA
7 PETER PAN
8 50 FIRST DATES
9 TAKING LIVES
10 HOUSE OF THE DEAD

CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 PETER PAN
3 BOOBITA ROSE
4 TAKING LIVES

North

CITY MARILAO
(044) 933 2013 to 17
1 PETER PAN
2 SCOOBY DOO 2
3 BOOBITA ROSE
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 PAYCHECK
3 ACACIA
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
5 THE CURSE
6 BOOBITA ROSE

CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505
1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 PETER PAN
3 50 FIRST DATES
4 WATER DEMON

South

CITY LAS PIÑAS
8066088
1 TWISTED
2 PETER PAN
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 BOOBITA ROSE
5 OTSO OTSO
6 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
7 SCOOBY DOO 2
8 PAYCHECK
9 TAKING LIVES
10 ACACIA

CITY BICUTAN
7763055
1 TAKING LIVES
2 BOOBITA ROSE
3 PETER PAN
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

SUPER CENTER SUCAT
8294975
1 PETER PAN
2 BOOBITA ROSE
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 TAKING LIVES

CITY BACOOR
(046)4173868
1 TWISTED
2 PETER PAN
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 ACACIA
5 PAYCHECK
6 BOOBITA ROSE
7 TAKING LIVES
8 HOUSE OF THE DEAD

CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80
1 SCOOBY DOO 2
2 BONE SNATCHER
3 50 FIRST DATES
4 TORQUE

Visayas & Mindanao

CITY CEBU
(032) 2313876
1 LAPU-LAPU (STAGE PLAY)
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 SCOOBY DOO 2
4 50 FIRST DATES
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
6 DIABLO
7 BOOBITA ROSE
8 THE GRUDGE 2

CITY ILOILO
(033) 3209422
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 RESERVED
3 BOOBITA ROSE
4 50 FIRST DATES
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
6 HIDALGO
7 RESERVED
8 THE CURSE

CITY DAVAO
(082) 2976998
1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 BOOBITA ROSE
4 50 FIRST DATES
5 TORQUE
6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884
1 BONE SNATCHER
2 50 FIRST DATES
3 BOOBITA ROSE
4 SCOOBY DOO 2

—THE—
PODIUM
CINEMA

1
PETER PAN
11:15 FS/11:45 MF/
2:15/ 4:45 / 7:15 / 9:20
LFS/ 9:50 LMF/
11:50 END

2
THE PASSION
OF THE CHRIST
10:50 FS/11:20 MF/
2:00/4:40/ 7:20/ 9:30 LFS/
10:00 LMF/12:10 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

CINEMA
red carpet event
red carpet event
red carpet event

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2004

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10 Lucky entries will win limited edition scale-models of the Ford Gran Torino featured in "Starsky & Hutch".

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CINEMA 1 THX THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
2 PAYCHECK 11.50, 2.20, 4.50, 7.20, 9.50
3 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 10.50, 1.30, 4.10, 6.50, 9.30
4 PETER PAN 10.15, 12.30, 2.50, 5.10, 7.30, 9.45
5 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB 10.35, 12.50, 3.05, 5.20, 7.35, 9.50
6 TAKING LIVES 10.35, 12.50, 3.05, 5.20, 7.35, 9.50
7 50 FIRST DATES 11.55, 2.05, 4.15, 6.25, 8.35, 10.30
8 ACACIA 11.00, 1.10, 3.20, 5.30, 7.40, 9.50
9 TWISTED 10.50, 1.00, 3.10, 5.20, 7.30, 9.40
10 THE UNINVITED 11.00, 1.40, 4.20, 7.00, 9.45

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12
1 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
2 THE UNINVITED 10.10, 12.35, 3.00, 5.20, 7.40, 10.00
3 TAKING LIVES 10.10, 12.25, 2.40, 4.55, 7.10, 9.40
4 TWISTED 11.00, 1.10, 3.20, 5.30, 7.40, 9.50
5 PETER PAN 11.30, 2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.40
6 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB 11.00, 1.10, 3.20, 5.30, 7.40, 9.50
7 PAYCHECK 10.35, 12.50, 3.05, 5.20, 7.35, 9.50

Big R Supercenter METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280
1 TWISTED 10.50, 12.50, 2.50, 4.50, 6.50, 9.00
2 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 10.15, 1.15, 4.15, 7.15, 10.15
3 THE UNINVITED 11.40, 2.00, 4.20, 6.40, 9.00
4 PETER PAN 10.25, 1.05, 3.15, 6.25, 9.05
5 TAKING LIVES 12.05, 2.15, 4.25, 6.40, 9.00
6 ACACIA 11.00, 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00
7 PAYCHECK 10.25, 1.05, 3.45, 6.25, 9.05
8 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB 10.40, 2.15, 4.50, 7.25, 10.00

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31
1 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 12.20, 3.00, 5.40, 8.30
2 TWISTED 12.00, 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.10
3 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB 11.45, 1.55, 4.05, 6.15, 8.30
4 TAKING LIVES 11.45, 1.55, 4.05, 6.15, 8.30
5 PAYCHECK 11.20, 1.35, 3.50, 6.05, 8.30
6 ACACIA 11.25, 1.15, 3.05, 4.55, 6.45, 8.35
7 THE UNINVITED 10.20, 12.45, 3.10, 5.35, 8.10
8 PETER PAN 11.20, 1.35, 3.50, 6.05, 8.30

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 PETER PAN
2 TAKING LIVES
3 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

big Supercenter CAINTA 240-4661
1 TAKING LIVES
2 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
3 PETER PAN
4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA Laguna (049)837-0907
1 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 TAKING LIVES
3 PETER PAN
4 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
5 PAYCHECK

Big R Supercenter LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 HIGHWAYMEN
2 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 TAKING LIVES
5 HIDALGO

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS 852-2125
1 TAKING LIVES
2 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
4 HIDALGO
5 HIGHWAYMEN

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 ACACIA
2 THE CURSE
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
5 PAYCHECK
6 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 PAYCHECK
2 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 TWISTED
4 TAKING LIVES
5 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
6 PETER PAN

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 50 FIRST DATES
2 WISE GIRLS
3 HIGHWAYMEN
4 BONE SNATCHER
5 RUNAWAY JURY
6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 HIDALGO
2 50 FIRST DATES
3 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
5 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT
6 THE CURSE

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Street caging back

THE HALF-COURT game of street basketball returns as the adidas Streetball Challenge 2004 kicks off with its NCR leg today at the SM Megamall open area parking grounds.

For the Luzon phase, competition gets going at the Ateneo de Naga on April 23, De La Salle Lipa on April 25, St. John School of Dagupan on April 29, St. Louis University of Baguio on May 2, and Robinsons Star Mills in Pampanga on May 7-9.

Action shifts to the Visayas on May 21 at the University of San Agustin in Iloilo, May 23 at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod and at the SM City Cebu on May 28-30.

3-cocker on today

SOME 48 exciting matches are on tap in another 3-cock derby tonight at the Las Piñas Coliseum.

A cash prize of P300,000 is at stake in this event to be hosted by veteran cocker Mike Santos of Parañaque and sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Entry fee is P5,500.

Set on Wednesday, April 21, is another 3-cock event with Alan and Julius Canumay as hosts. Last Wednesday, the Agiwin and Exacalibur entries shared the championship of 3-cock derby hosted by Larry Barbasa.

For inquiries, contact 873-1040 (look for Jerry or Julius).

P.3-M pot for derby

AFICIONADOS of Mandaluyong Coliseum can expect more than 80 fast-paced fights as a special 3-cock derby gets underway at 5 p.m. today.

Mandaluyong Coliseum is now under the management of Jonjon Abalos, Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola.

For an entry fee of P5,500, the guaranteed prize is P300,000. Today's host is the Pandor Magic Group.

For inquiries, contact 5322650 and 5414110.

Villages cage tilt

THE LARGEST inter-village basketball league—the Alliance of Quezon City Homeowners Associations Inc. (AQCHAI) —will be holding a basketball clinic today, starting at 8 a.m., at the Tivoli Royal Country Club Gym.

Some 400 promising cagers and kids from 75 AQCHAI member subdivisions are expected to participate in the clinic organized by AQCHAI sports committee chair Danny Mendoza and vice chair Jordan Tolentino and sponsored by Stik-O.

For details, call AQCHAI office c/o Marivic at 9313011, Danny Mendoza (09178384642) or Jordan Tolentino (0919-2704582).

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Django, Bata 1-2 favorites in Asian 9-ball Tour HK edition

REYES

HONG KONG—If they play true to form, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Efren "Bata" Reyes may find themselves disputing the third leg crown of the San Miguel Asian 9-ball Tour here.

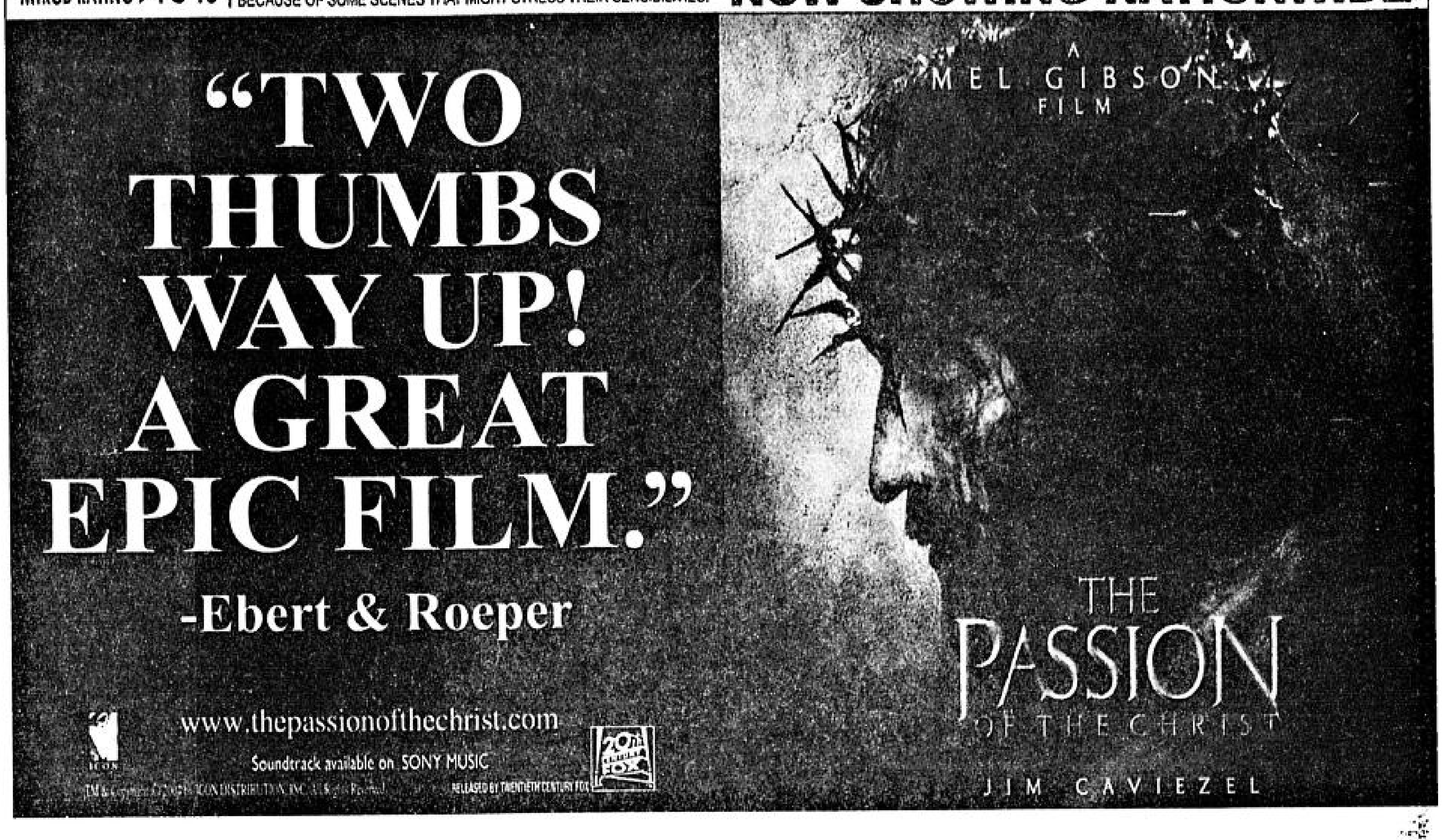
Ranked Nos. 1 and 2 in the elite 32-player field, Bustamante and Reyes found themselves in the opposite side of the draw in the tennis-style, knockout format event, hoping to hurdle their respective rivals and arranging a dream match for the championship worth $10,000.

But that's easier said than done.

Reyes, seeking a third straight win here after ruling the Singapore and the Vietnam legs of this five-nation hopping series sponsored by San Miguel and organized by ESPN Star Sports Management Group, said it will be tough considering the depth of the field that includes former two-time world champion Chao Fong Pang of Taiwan and a bunch of talented pool players ready to foil the Filipinos' bid in the two-day tournament.

Reyes takes on Pang Chian Zian of Singapore in one of the six race-to-9 duels in the morning matches kicking off the event at the Hong Kong Football Club in Happy Valley here.

Bustamante, currently the world's No. 1 but who had so-so stints in the first two legs of the circuit, which gives qualifying points to this year's World Championship, pitted against another Taiwanese ace Wang Hua Fong.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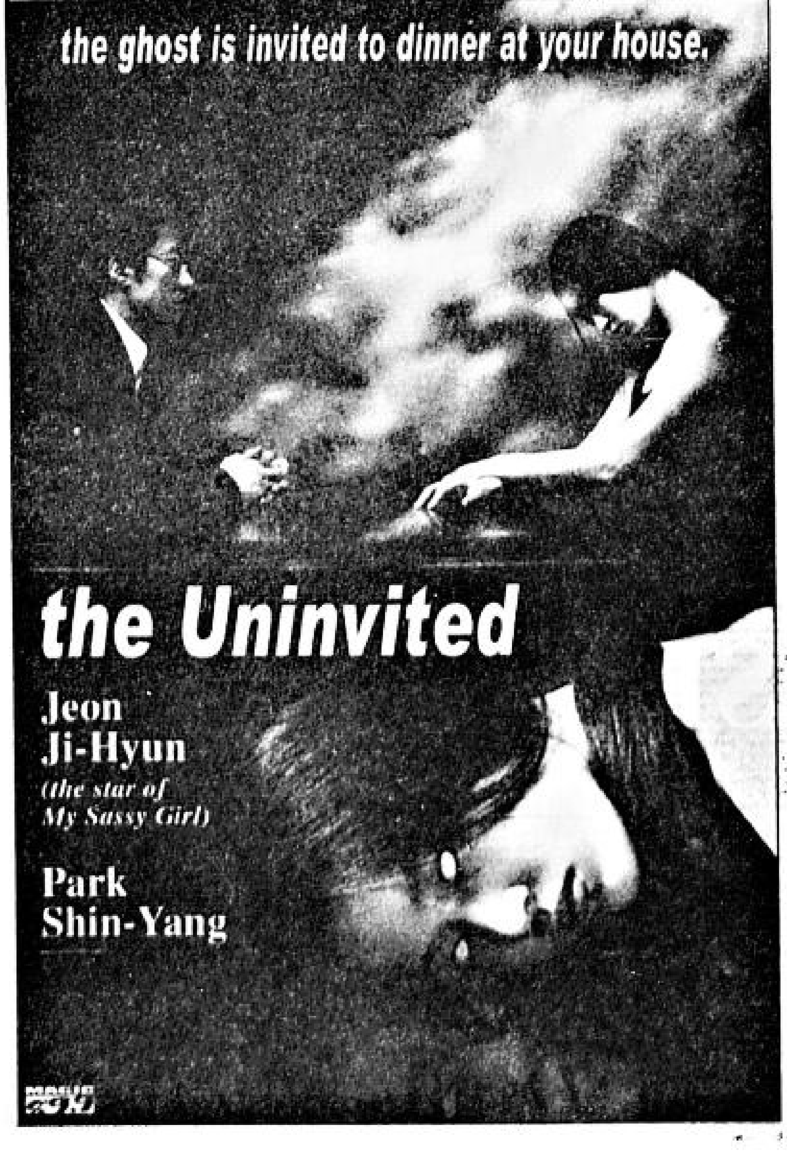
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Park Shin-Yang

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STARSTRUCK KIDS | TWIN HEARTS | HANGGANG KAILAN | TE AMO
1 Sagutin ang bawat tanong na lalabas sa bawat programa.
Sample Txtpress Question:
Anong hayop ang iniregalo ni Fernando kay Rosela?
A. aso B. pusa
Sample Txtpress Answer: TA A
2 I-Text ang keyword at ang letra ng tamang sagot.
SK (Starstruck Kids)
TH (Twin Hearts)
HK (Hanggang Kailan)
TA (Te Amo)
keyword<space> letra
NO NEED TO REGISTER!
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367 Smart/Talk'N Text
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2nd PRIZE Ten (10) P 1,000 Cash
3rd PRIZE Twenty (20) P 250 Worth of Reloads
The list of daily winners for every show will be flashed after Te Amo.
* All transactions cost P2.50 (Smart/TnT / Globe Prepaid) and P2.00 (Globe postpaid)
* GMA New Media Inc. will contact winners of the grand prize immediately (within the same night) by calling the indicated mobile number and verifying personal details and SMS message sent. Instructions on how to claim the prizes will also be given. Grand prize winners will be announced during program succeeding GMA Telebabad.
* GMA New Media Inc. will contact winners of the second and third place prizes within seven (7) days of contest date joined, and give instructions on how to claim prizes.
* There will be no limit as to the number of entries a texter wishes to send per day. An individual may win more than once within one day and within the prescribed promo period.
Promo period is from April 19 to 30, 2004

Jackson seeks perfect NBA playoffs with LA Lakers

NEW YORK—For Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson, this could be the perfect NBA playoffs.

If the stars align and the earth rotates right, he can humiliate Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy in the first round, de-deify Jerry West in the second round, and torment Sacramento, Dallas or Minnesota in the Western Conference finals. And then it could really get good.

For Act IV, he'd break Red Auerbach's record of nine NBA championships by outwitting Larry Brown, Larry Bird or Larry Frank.

Or maybe being the first $10 million-a-year NBA coach and trucking his triangle offense to a new NBA city, a place where the daily dispositions of Kobe, Shaq, et al., could be slotted safely in his past.

Jackson will be free to take his act elsewhere this summer because his agent, Todd Musberger, and Lakers owner Jerry Buss (Jeanie's dad) broke off negotiations on a contract extension earlier this season, right around the time Bryant was publicly professing his dislike for the so-called Zen Master.

The Lakers will begin their series against Houston on Saturday. *AP*

WILLIAMS

Venus makes q'finals

CHARLESTON, South Carolina—Venus Williams, the highest remaining seed at the Family Circle Cup after her sister Serena withdrew, advanced to the quarterfinals Thursday night with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Marie-Gayanay Mikaelian.

Serena Williams, seeded second, pulled out before her match with Conchita Martinez on Thursday, citing a sore left knee. She had surgery on the knee in August and was off the tour for eight months.

The top three Family Circle seeds have now withdrawn for health reasons. Henin-Hardenne and Amelie Mauresmo withdrew earlier.

Venus Williams, seeded fourth and playing in her first Family Circle, said she felt no pressure to win for the family because her sister is out.

Asked if she now should be considered the favorite, Williams laughed: "I don't know. I'm just a lone warrior." *AP*

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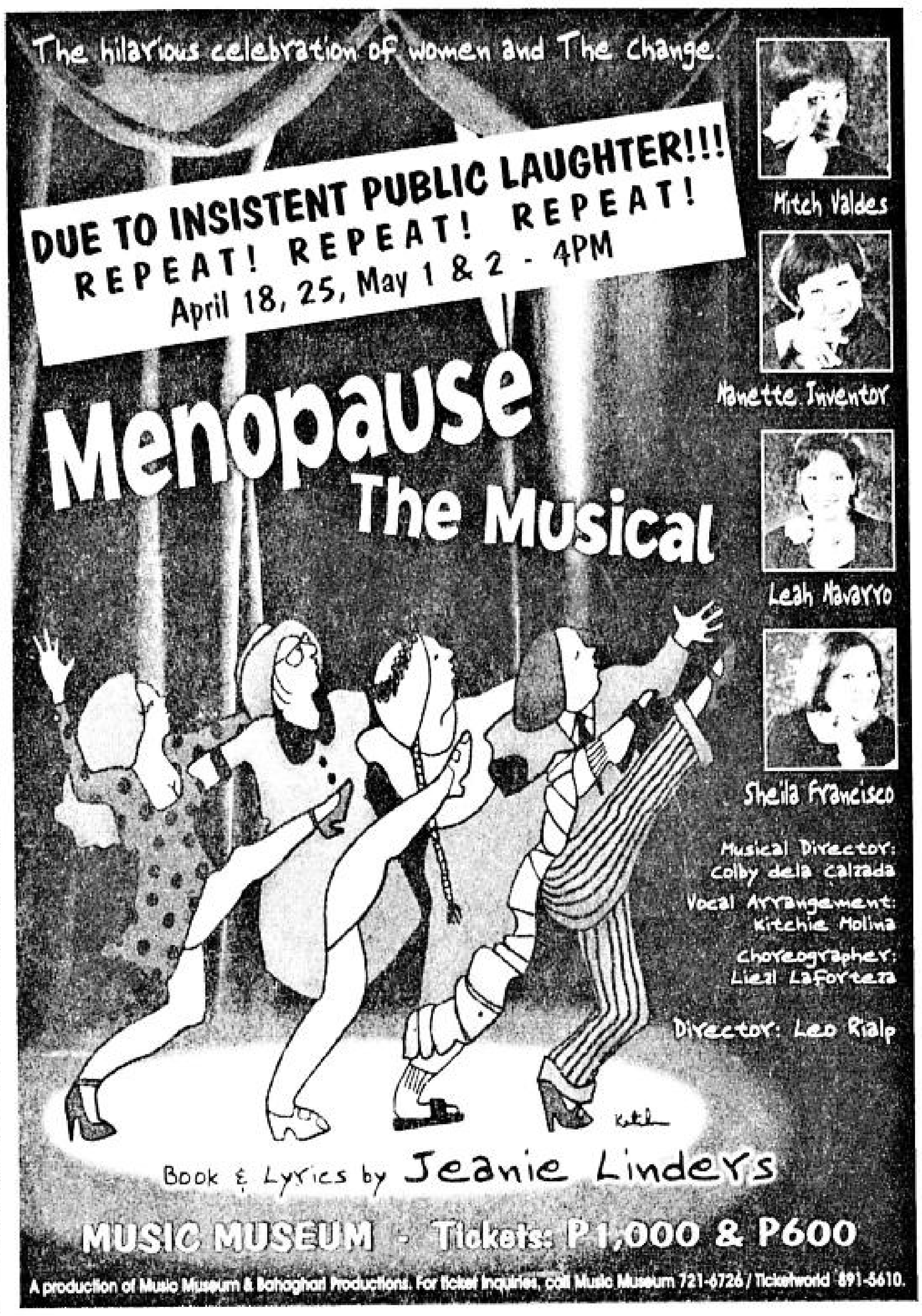

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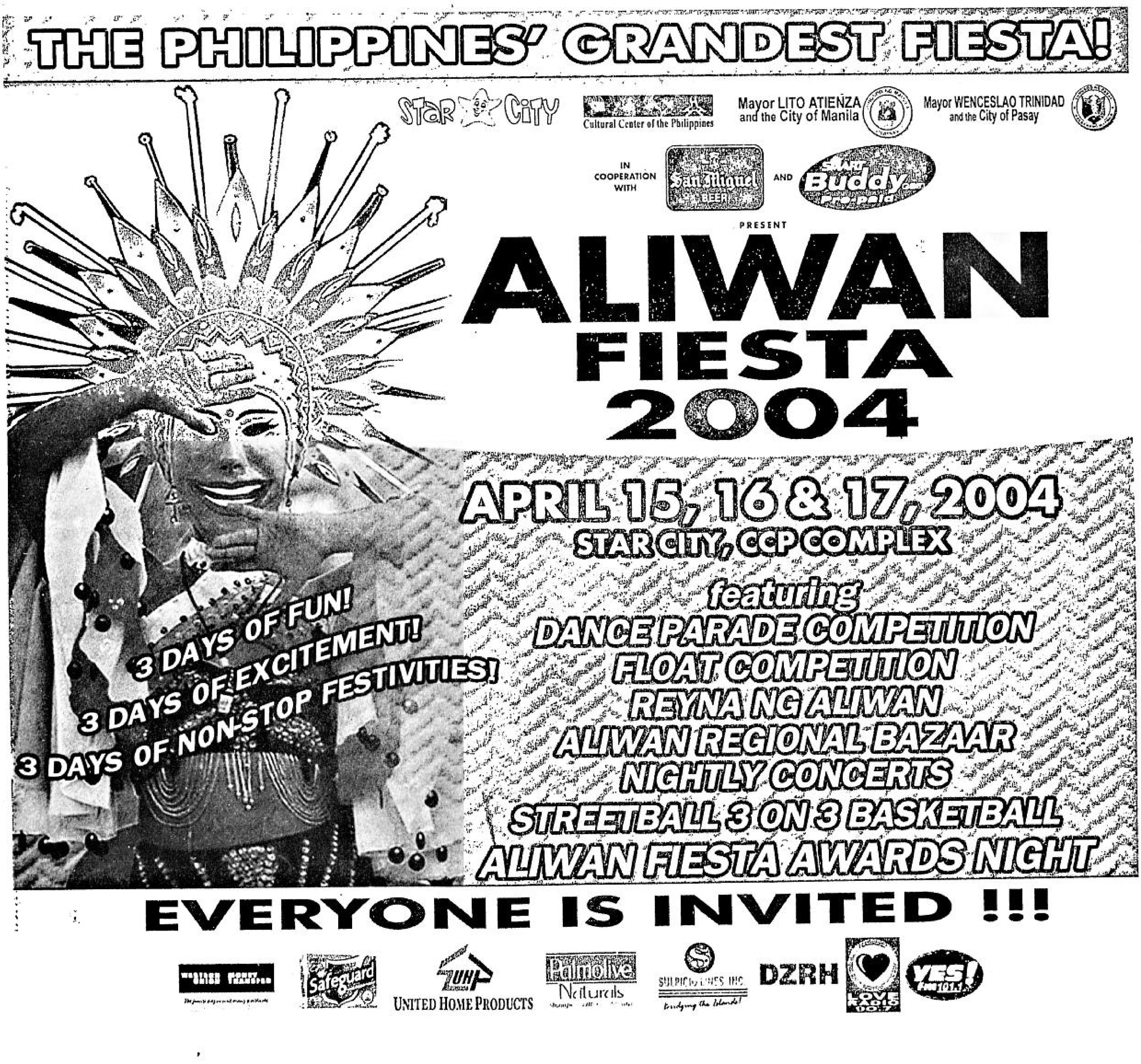

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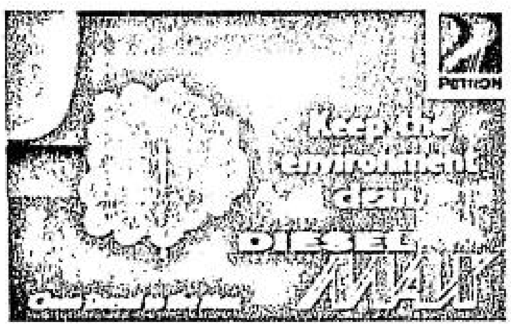


Budget deficit stays below target

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BUDGET deficit in March fell by about 20 percent from a year earlier to P22.28 billion, leaving the shortfall for the first quarter of 2004 within the government's target, the Department of Finance announced yesterday.

It said the March figures, achieved despite a collection shortfall by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, brought the deficit for the first three months of 2004 to P56.85 billion against the target of P58.9 billion.

The government is aiming to cap its shortfall this year at P197.8 billion from P199.9 billion in 2003.

The lower-than-target deficit for the first quarter also eased concerns that election-related spending would bloat the budget gap.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said the first-quarter figure indicated the government's continuing fiscal discipline despite expectations by some sectors that it would be tempted to go on a spending spree ahead of the May 10 presidential elections.

"If we spent too much for the elections we would have done it in the first quarter but the deficit is lower than program so how could they say we overspent for the elections?" Amatong noted.

"Because of the below-target deficit we achieved in the first quarter we expect the second quarter to be better, especially as April is a tax month," she added, referring to the April deadline for tax filing.

The finance department said first-quarter revenues came in at P152.61 billion, up from P136.569 billion a year ago.

Expenditure also rose, to P209.46 billion from P195.45 billion in the first quarter of 2003.

The BIR saw a significant rise in revenues in March but missed its cumulative first-quarter target by P2.1 billion, collecting only P98.97 billion.

The shortfall incurred by the BIR, however, was offset by the over-performance of the Bureau of Customs and Bureau of Treasury, which respectively topped their targets by P4.4 billion and P1.58 billion.

Customs collected P29.19 billion while the Treasury contributed P16.13 billion to government coffers.

Amatong also said she was not worried about the BIR's performance as collections would likely improve for the rest of the year.

"The BIR's tax-mapping and other administrative measures will be felt starting April as these measures were started only in the last quarter of 2003," Amatong said.

The Philippines is aiming to cap its shortfall this year at P197.8 billions, just below P199.9 billion in 2003.

The government is aiming for a balanced budget by 2009, but economists said that goal already looked difficult without more ambitious annual cuts in the deficit target.

Remittances from OFWs up 9.8% in February

DOLLAR inflow from overseas Filipino workers surged by 9.8 percent in February to $594 million from a year ago, a turnaround from the 5.8-percent decline in January.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the February figure brought the two-month inward remittances to $1.2 billion, representing a modest growth of 1.3 percent from the level posted in the same period last year.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the country benefited from firmer economic recovery in host countries, which created more job openings for migrant workers.

Countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Japan remained as the main sources of the remittances in February.

"The more attractive peso-dollar exchange rate, after it breached the P56:$1 mark, might have also encouraged the higher level of remittances in February," Buenaventura said.

When it reported a decline in remittances for January, the BSP said some of the overseas Filipino workers could have delayed their money transfers on expectations of a further peso depreciation. At that time, the exchange rate was becoming more volatile, which could have encouraged the overseas workers to wait for a higher peso equivalent for their dollar earnings.

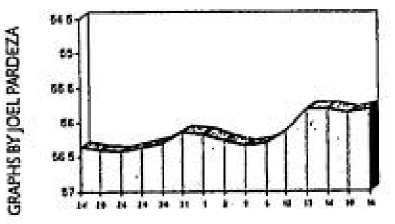
Buenaventura said that in February, there was an increase in the number of land- and sea-based workers deployed overseas.

Citing data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, he said land-based workers for the first two months grew to 170,242 or by 28.9 percent from a year ago while the number of sea-based workers increased by 3.5 percent to 36,651.

Doris C. Dumlao

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



FEBRUARY MARCH

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.80= $1

As of 5 p.m., April 16, 2004

¥ 108.38 =$ 1

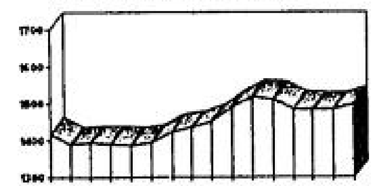
As of 5 p.m., April 16, 2004

GOLD: $400.20-400.70

per ounce Hong Kong, April 16, 2004

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 1.01% higher

SHARE prices closed 1.01 percent higher yesterday, supported by bargain-hunting in select blue-chips after four days of declines, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 14.91 points to 1,498.11 to finish at the day's high after hitting a low of 1,482.54.

Gainers led losers 30 to 18, while 34 stocks were unchanged.

Turnover was 199.8 million shares worth P317.1 million after 242.7 million shares worth P716.5 million on Thursday. The all-shares index was down 15.60 points at 949.46.

"There's bargain-hunting in a few blue chips," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities, adding that investors also believe the government has kept its budget deficit within target in the first three months to March. *AFP*

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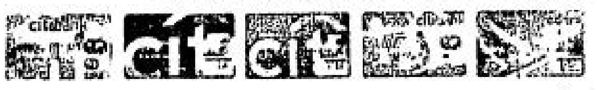

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 16, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	17	16.75	17	13,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	45.5	44.5	45	537,900
China Banking Corp.	670	675	670	675	340
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39.5	40	39.5	40	5,600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	80,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	23.75	24.25	23.75	24.25	328,800
Philippine National Bank	23	23	23	23	6,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2065	2065	2065	2065	560
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	22	21.5	22	17,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.68	380,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	860	860	850	855	23,210
Ipeople Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	125,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.034	0.035	0.034	0.035	1,200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	20,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.7	3,200,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1050	1050	1045	1045	47,830
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	61,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	27,500
Manila Electric Co. B	26.5	28	26.5	28	577,200
Petron Corp.	2.9	3.05	2.9	3.05	1,363,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.99	0.9	0.99	210,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	198,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	250,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.66	2,842,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	100,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	196,000
RFM Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57	56.5	57	51,400
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	72	70.5	72	37,000
Universal Robina Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	22,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	450,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.4	6,154,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	136,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1	1	1	1	60,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	1,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9	9	9	4,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.53	9,660,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.12	0.1	0.12	160,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	600,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22.25	22.75	22.25	22.75	294,300
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	500,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	20,000
Medco Holdings	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	320,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1,300,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	390,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	12,800,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	47,100
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	5,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	40,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	22	22	22	22	82,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	19,900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	13,729,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	390,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	26,834,000
Fil-Estate Land, Inc.	0.185	0.205	0.185	0.205	940,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.09	26,000,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.9	5.6	5.9	1,309,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	240,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	170,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	12,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	8,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.17	60,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	600,000

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Synopsis of Annual Statement
As of 31 December 2002

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	₱	693,105,230.00
Policy Loans		1,963,529.00
Security Fund		141,244.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks		272,113,835.23
Amounts Due from Ceding Companies		143,075,080.00
Net Life Insurance Premiums & Annuity Considerations Due & Uncollected		2,892,207.00
Accrued Investment Income		23,168,973.00
Electronic Data Processing Machines		10,789,987.00
TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS	₱	1,147,250,085.23

LIABILITIES

Aggregate Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts	₱	57,055,260.00
Policy and Contract Claims		10,848,268.00
Amount Due to Accepting Companies		2,282,250.00
Liability for Premium Deposit Funds		37,977.00
Commissions Payable		7,230,777.00
Taxes Payable		5,563,855.21
Amounts Payable to Ceding Companies		75,722,230.00
Accrued Expenses		90,730,308.00
Unearned Investment Income		148,429.00
Other Liabilities		12,182,191.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	₱	261,801,545.21

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock Paid-Up	₱	250,000,000.00
Special Surplus Fund :		
Fluctuation Reserve - Foreign Exchange		169,785.16
Contributed Surplus		50,000,000.00
Contingency Surplus		541,312,193.00
Retained Earnings		43,966,561.86
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	₱	885,448,540.02
TOTAL LIABILITIES & STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	₱	1,147,250,085.23

(This synopsis, prepared from the 2002 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended.)

CCC INSURANCE CORPORATION

Synopsis of Annual Statement
As of 31 December 2002

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	P	4,192,537.60
Investment in Treasury Bills		13,844,460.11
Stocks		15,808,486.43
Real Estate		100,426.15
Mortgage Loans		400,000.00
Other Loans		215,960.22
Security Fund		36,873.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks		7,190,610.95
Premiums Receivable		24,715,824.40
Premiums Due from Ceding Companies		36,554,994.84
Premiums Reserve Witheld by Ceding Companies		332,943.65
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses		54,190,046.05
Accrued Investment Income		14,834.29
Electronic Data Processing Equipment		149,206.92
TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS	P	157,747,204.61

LIABILITIES

Losses & Claims Payable	P	32,396,882.59
Losses Adjustment Expenses Payable		1,054,304.45
Reserved for Unearned Premiums		18,809,995.80
Catastrophe Loss Reserve		582,792.50
Premiums Due to Reinsurers		13,007,569.56
Premiums Reserved Withheld for Reinsurers		7,687,865.01
Other Reinsurance Accounts Payable		660,267.32
Commission Payable		4,185,455.45
Taxes Payable		7,672,307.72
Unearned Bond Discount		109,997.48
Other Liabilities		2,966,226.77
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	89,133,664.65

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock Paid Up	P	62,500,000.00
Contributed Surplus		500,000.00
Retained Earnings		5,613,539.96
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY	P	68,613,539.96
TOTAL LIABILITIES & STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY	P	157,747,204.61

(This synopsis, prepared from the 2002 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code OF 1978, as amended.)

CURRENCIES

April 16, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.834655	1.000000	55.8800
Japan	Yen	0.007705	0.009231	0.5158
United Kingdom	Pound	1.495368	1.791600	100.1146
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107030	0.128233	7.1657
Switzerland	Franc	0.644073	0.771664	43.1206
Canada	Dollar	0.621763	0.744934	41.6269
Singapore	Dollar	0.497648	0.596232	33.3174
Australia	Dollar	0.616801	0.738989	41.2947
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.214056	2.652661	148.2307
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.222575	0.266667	14.9014
Brunei	Dollar	0.496169	0.594460	33.2184
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000097	0.000116	0.0065
Thailand	Baht	0.021098	0.025278	1.4125
UAE	Dirham	0.227246	0.272264	15.2141
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.198100	66.9498
Argentina	Peso	0.297030	0.355872	19.8861
Brazil	Real	0.287416	0.344353	19.2424
Denmark	Kroner	0.134355	0.160971	8.9951
India	Rupee	0.019013	0.022779	1.2729
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219675	0.263193	14.7072
Mexico	New Peso	0.074146	0.088834	4.9640
New Zealand	Dollar	0.530411	0.635486	35.5110
Norway	Kroner	0.120751	0.144672	8.0843
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014528	0.017406	0.9726
South Africa	Rand	0.126631	0.151717	8.4779
Korea	Won	0.000724	0.000867	0.0484
Sweden	Kroner	0.108767	0.130314	7.2819
Syria	Pound	0.018892	0.022635	1.2648
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025346	0.030367	1.6969
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000436	0.000522	0.0292

UCPB PROPERTY MARKET

10% DOWN PAYMENT 11% INTEREST 10 YEARS TO PAY

SPECIAL VALUE PUBLIC AUCTION

April 24, 2004, Saturday, 9:00 A.M., 11th floor, UCPB Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City

CONDOMINIUMS

San Antonio
Makati City
PALM TOWER
COMMERCIAL UNITS
13.12 sqm, P 402,784.00
14.80 sqm, P 568,320.00
15.25 sqm, P 468,175.00
16.16 sqm, P 496,112.00
17.40 sqm, P 534,180.00
20.30 sqm, P 623,210.00
21.62 sqm, P 663,734.00
24.96 sqm, P 766,272.00
29.19 sqm, P 896,133.00
32.15 sqm, P 987,005.00
35.10 sqm, P 1,077,570.00
46.98 sqm, P 1,371,816.00
51.10 sqm, P 1,492,120.00
103.48 sqm, P 3,021,616.00

San Antonio
Makati City
PALM TOWER
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
23.66 sqm, P 958,230.00
24.36 sqm, P 942,732.00
24.48 sqm, P 859,248.00
28.24 sqm, P 1,092,888.00
29.51 sqm, P 1,035,801.00
36.38 sqm, P 1,210,788.00
36.36 sqm P 1,338,048.00
42.65 sqm, P 1,415,980.00
43.20 sqm, P 1,516,320.00
50.18 sqm, P 1,846,624.00
75.15 sqm, P 2,630,250.00
107.04 sqm, P 3,371,760.00

Legaspi Village
Makati City
BILTMORE
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
72.40 sqm, P 4,199,200.00
72.40 sqm, P 4,409,160.00
72.40 sqm, P 4,199,200.00
82.60 sqm, P 5,046,860.00
82.60 sqm, P 5,046,860.00
82.60 sqm, P 5,046,860.00
131.10 sqm, P 8,416,620.00
131.10 sqm, P 8,416,620.00
131.10 sqm, P 8,416,620.00
132 sqm, P 8,474,400.00
132 sqm, P 8,474,400.00

Mandaluyong City
(near Edsa)
ARK
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
37.17 sqm, P 1,014,741.00
21.13 sqm, P 576,849.00
21.85 sqm, P 598,505.00
48.75 sqm, P 1,111,500.00
22.92 sqm, P 522,576.00
38.01 sqm, P 775,404.00
20.18 sqm, P 460,104.00
48.53 sqm, P 1,108,764.00
21.85 sqm, P 445,740.00
21.85 sqm, P 445,740.00
47.83 sqm, P 1,090,524.00
65.33 sqm, P 1,489,524.00
125.46 sqm, P 2,998,494.00
10.25 sqm, P 263,000.00

Pasig City
RENAISSANCE
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
279 sqm, P 8,366,700.00

Puerto Azul, Cavite
VISTA DE LORO
RESORT CONDO
71 sqm, P 2,740,000.00

Roxas Boulevard
CHATEAU DE BAIE
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
157 sqm, P 4,025,000.00
184 sqm, P 4,625,000.00

Greenhills
San Juan City
ATLANTA
OFFICE UNITS
74.39 sqm, P 2,492,065.00
138.08 sqm, P 5,138,576.00
157.19 sqm, P 6,287,600.00
112.29 sqm, P 4,278,249.00
158.79 sqm, P 6,034,020.00
157.08 sqm, P 5,969,040.00
167.17 sqm, P 6,686,800.00
157.44 sqm, P 6,612,480.00
229.95 sqm, P 10,600,695.00
229.61 sqm, P 10,565,196.00

TOWNHOUSES

Quezon City
ISABELLA PLACE
146 sqm, P 2,702,915.00
87 sqm, P 2,002,482.00
85 sqm, P 1,868,265.00
85 sqm, P 1,868,265.00
85 sqm, P 1,868,265.00

Quezon City
GRANWOOD
102 sqm,P2,000,000.00
152 sqm, P 3,600,000.00

Quezon City
LA BREA
180 sqm, P2,428,800.00

Pansol, Calamba
RESORT WITH POOL
300 sqm, P4,000,000.00

SUBDIVISIONS

Carmona, Cavite
MANILA SOUTHWOOD
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
612 sqm, P 3,060,000.00
563 sqm, P 2,815,000.00
483 sqm, P 2,430,000.00
486 sqm, P 2,430,000.00
505 sqm, P 2,525,000.00
470 sqm, P 2,350,000.00
548 sqm, P 2,740,000.00
609 sqm, P 3,045,000.00
534 sqm, P 2,670,000.00
1000 sqm, P 5,000,000.00

Sta. Rosa, Laguna
STA.ROSA VILLAGE
HOUSE & LOT
115 sqm, P 821,000.00
125 sqm, P 840,000.00
137 sqm, P 966,000.00
137 sqm, 966,000.00
138 sqm, 968,000.00
178 sqm, P 935,000.00
245 sqm, P 968,000.00

Valley Golf
Antipolo, Rizal
PARK RIDGE
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
437 sqm, P 1,092,500.00
605 sqm, P 881,400.00
619 sqm, P 1,547,500.00
640 sqm, P 832,000.00
678 sqm, P1,028,500.00

TOWN & COUNTRY
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
834 sqm, P 3,170,500.00
1,151 sqm, P 4,374,000.00
1,145 sqm, P 4,350,000.00

BARRINGTON
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
350 sqm, P 1,435,000.00

Antipolo City
HILLS OF MAIA ALTA
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
153 sqm, P 627,300.00
153 sqm, P 627,300.00
153 sqm, P 627,300.00
160 sqm, P 768,000.00
164 sqm, P 754,400.00
168 sqm, P 672,000.00
173 sqm, P 761,200.00
177 sqm. P 778,800.00
195 sqm, P 858,000.00
201 sqm, P 804,000.00
300 sqm, P 1,230,000.00
306 sqm, P 1,193,400.00
326 sqm, P 1,238,800.00
357 sqm, P 1,356,000.00

Bay, Laguna
ASIA VILLE
RESORT LOTS
175 sqm, P 350,000.00
175 sqm, P 350,000.00
175 sqm, P350,000.00
183 sqm, P 350,000.00

San Pablo, Laguna
RICHWOOD
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
263 sqm, P 473,400.00
267 sqm, P 480,600.00
271 sqm, P 487,800.00
271 sqm, P 487,800.00

Biñan, Laguna
SAN JOSE VILL.
HOUSE & LOTS
126 sqm, P 820,000.00
126 sqm, P 820,000.00
136 sqm, P 840,000.00
140 sqm, P 970,000.00
197 sqm, P 1,080,000.00

Alfonso, Cavite
RODEO COUNTRYSIDE
925 sqm, P740,000.00
1000 sqm, P700,000.00
1000 sqm P800,000.00

Calamba, Laguna
PALACIO REAL
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
150 sqm, P 405,000.00
183 sqm, P 420,900.00
190 sqm, P 513,000.00
192 sqm, P 441,600.00
200 sqm, P 520,000.00
215 sqm, P 451,500.00
222 sqm, P 599,400.00
277 sqm, P 747,900.00
279 sqm, P 753,300.00
283 sqm, P 735,800.00
287 sqm, P 803,600.00
350 sqm, P 945,000.00
400 sqm, P 960,000.00
528 sqm, P 1,425,600.00

Antipolo City
(near Assumption)
FOLIAGE HILLS
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
177 sqm, P 778,800.00
176 sqm, P 763,200.00
180 sqm, P 756,000.00
182 sqm, P 800,800.00
184 sqm, P 809,600.00
185 sqm, P 814,000.00
202 sqm, P 888,800.00
216 sqm, P 864,000.00
240 sqm, P 1,056,000.00
240 sqm, P 1,056,000.00
240 sqm, P 1,056,000.00
261 sqm, P 1,148,400.00

Bucaue, Bulacan
AYUKIT
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
50 sqm, P 143,710.95
50 sqm, P 143,710.95
50 sqm, P 143,710.95
50 sqm, P 143,710.95
60 sqm, P 172,453.00
100 sqm, P 287,421.90
126 sqm, P 419,635.97
131 sqm, P 376,522.68
146 sqm, P 419,636.00
148 sqm, P 425,384.41
160 sqm, P 459,875.00
179 sqm, P 514,485.19
205 sqm, P 589,215.00
206 sqm, P 592,089.11

Antipolo City
(near Assumption)
COTTONWOOD HEIGHT
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
212 sqm, P 975,200.00
216 sqm, P 950,400.00
217 sqm, P 868,000.00
230 sqm, P 1,012,000.00
242 sqm, P 1,064,800.00
254 sqm, P 1,016,000.00
303 sqm, P 1,151,400.00
304 sqm, P 1,276,800.00
325 sqm, P 1,300,000.00
325 sqm, P 1,300,000.00
359 sqm, P 1,364,200.00
385 sqm, P 1,540,000.00
413 sqm, P 1,734,600.00
459 sqm, P 1,744,200.00

SHOW MONEY: Php 25,000 CASH/MC • ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" • PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

AUCTION MANAGER
THE PROPERTY FORUM

CALL CENTER
812-6418 OR **633-1988** TO **90**
(MON - SUN, 8:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.) (MON - SUN, 10:30 A.M. - 8:30 P.M.)

CELLPHONE NO.
09206186282

UCPB

www.ucpb.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 16, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	17	16.75	17	13,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	45.5	44.5	45	537,900
China Banking Corp.	670	675	670	675	340
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39.5	40	39.5	40	5,600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	80,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	23.75	24.25	23.75	24.25	328,800
Philippine National Bank	23	23	23	23	6,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2065	2065	2065	2065	560
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	22	21.5	22	17,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.68	380,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	860	860	850	855	23,210
Ipeople Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	125,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.034	0.035	0.034	0.035	1,200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	20,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.7	3,200,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1050	1050	1045	1045	47,830
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	61,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	27,500
Manila Electric Co. B	26.5	28	26.5	28	577,200
Petron Corp.	2.9	3.05	2.9	3.05	1,363,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.99	0.9	0.99	210,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	198,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	250,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.66	2,842,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	100,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	196,000
RFM Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57	56.5	57	51,400
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	72	70.5	72	37,000
Universal Robina Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	22,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	450,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.4	6,154,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	136,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1	1	1	1	60,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	1,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9	9	9	4,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.53	9,660,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.12	0.1	0.12	160,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	600,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22.25	22.75	22.25	22.75	294,300
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	500,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	20,000
Medco Holdings	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	320,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1,300,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	390,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	12,800,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	47,100
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	5,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	40,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	22	22	22	22	82,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	19,900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	13,729,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	390,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	26,834,000
Fil-Estate Land, Inc.	0.185	0.205	0.185	0.205	940,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.09	26,000,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.9	5.6	5.9	1,309,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	240,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	170,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	12,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	8,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.17	60,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	600,000

Prumerica Financial

The Prumerica Life Insurance Company, Inc.
A Prudential Financial company
34th floor Tower 1, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 887-35-15 Fax No. (02) 887-3002 to 04

THE PRUMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.
Synopsis of Annual Statement
As of 31 December 2002

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	P	693,105,230.00
Policy Loans		1,963,529.00
Security Fund		141,244.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks		272,113,835.23
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Accrued Investment Income		23,168,973.00
Electronic Data Processing Machines		10,789,987.00
TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS	P	1,147,250,085.23

LIABILITIES

Aggregate Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts	P	57,055,260.00
Policy and Contract Claims		10,848,268.00
Amount Due to Accepting Companies		2,282,250.00
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Taxes Payable		5,563,855.21
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Unearned Investment Income		148,429.00
Other Liabilities		12,182,191.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	261,801,545.21

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock Paid-Up	P	250,000,000.00
Special Surplus Fund :		
Fluctuation Reserve - Foreign Exchange		169,785.16
Contributed Surplus		50,000,000.00
Contingency Surplus		541,312,193.00
Retained Earnings		43,966,561.86
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	P	885,448,540.02
TOTAL LIABILITIES & STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	P	1,147,250,085.23

(This synopsis, prepared from the 2002 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended.)

CCC INSURANCE CORPORATION
Synopsis of Annual Statement
As of 31 December 2002

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	P	4,192,537.60
Investment in Treasury Bills		13,844,460.11
Stocks		15,808,486.43
Real Estate		100,426.15
Mortgage Loans		400,000.00
Other Loans		215,960.22
Security Fund		36,873.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks		7,190,610.95
Premiums Receivable		24,715,824.40
Premiums Due from Ceding Companies		36,554,994.84
Premiums Reserve Witheld by Ceding Companies		332,943.65
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses		54,190,046.05
Accrued Investment Income		14,834.29
Electronic Data Processing Equipment		149,206.92
TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS	P	157,747,204.61

LIABILITIES

Losses & Claims Payable	P	32,396,882.59
Losses Adjustment Expenses Payable		1,054,304.45
Reserved for Unearned Premiums		18,809,995.80
Catastrophe Loss Reserve		582,792.50
Premiums Due to Reinsurers		13,007,569.56
Premiums Reserved Withheld for Reinsurers		7,687,865.01
Other Reinsurance Accounts Payable		660,267.32
Commission Payable		4,185,455.45
Taxes Payable		7,672,307.72
Unearned Bond Discount		109,997.48
Other Liabilities		2,966,226.77
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	89,133,664.65

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock Paid Up	P	62,500,000.00
Contributed Surplus		500,000.00
Retained Earnings		5,613,539.96
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY	P	68,613,539.96
TOTAL LIABILITIES & STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY	P	157,747,204.61

(This synopsis, prepared from the 2002 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code OF 1978, as amended.)

CURRENCIES

April 16, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.834655	1.000000	55.8800
Japan	Yen	0.007705	0.009231	0.5158
United Kingdom	Pound	1.495368	1.791600	100.1146
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107030	0.128233	7.1657
Switzerland	Franc	0.644073	0.771664	43.1206
Canada	Dollar	0.621763	0.744934	41.6269
Singapore	Dollar	0.497648	0.596232	33.3174
Australia	Dollar	0.616801	0.738989	41.2947
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.214056	2.652661	148.2307
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.222575	0.266667	14.9014
Brunei	Dollar	0.496169	0.594460	33.2184
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000097	0.000116	0.0065
Thailand	Baht	0.021098	0.025278	1.4125
UAE	Dirham	0.227246	0.272264	15.2141
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.198100	66.9498
Argentina	Peso	0.297030	0.355872	19.8861
Brazil	Real	0.287416	0.344353	19.2424
Denmark	Kroner	0.134355	0.160971	8.9951
India	Rupee	0.019013	0.022779	1.2729
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219675	0.263193	14.7072
Mexico	New Peso	0.074146	0.088834	4.9640
New Zealand	Dollar	0.530411	0.635486	35.5110
Norway	Kroner	0.120751	0.144672	8.0843
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014528	0.017406	0.9726
South Africa	Rand	0.126631	0.151717	8.4779
Korea	Won	0.000724	0.000867	0.0484
Sweden	Kroner	0.108767	0.130314	7.2819
Syria	Pound	0.018892	0.022635	1.2648
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025346	0.030367	1.6969
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000436	0.000522	0.0292

UCPB PROPERTY MARKET
10% DOWN PAYMENT 11% INTEREST 10 YEARS TO PAY

SPECIAL VALUE PUBLIC AUCTION
April 24, 2004, Saturday, 9:00 A.M., 11th floor, UCPB Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City

CONDOMINIUMS

San Antonio
Makati City
PALM TOWER
COMMERCIAL UNITS
13.12 sqm, P 402,764.00
14.80 sqm, P 568,320.00
15.25 sqm, P 468,175.00
16.16 sqm, P 496,112.00
17.40 sqm, P 534,180.00
20.30 sqm, P 623,210.00
21.62 sqm, P 663,734.00
24.96 sqm, P 766,272.00
29.19 sqm, P 896,133.00
32.15 sqm, P 987,005.00
35.10 sqm, P 1,077,570.00
46.98 sqm, P 1,371,816.00
51.10 sqm, P 1,492,120.00
103.48 sqm, P 3,021,616.00

San Antonio
Makati City
PALM TOWER
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
23.66 sqm, P 958,230.00
24.36 sqm, P 942,732.00
24.48 sqm, P 859,248.00
28.24 sqm, P 1,092,888.00
29.51 sqm, P 1,035,801.00
36.36 sqm, P 1,210,788.00
36.36 sqm P 1,338,048.00
42.65 sqm, P 1,415,980.00
43.20 sqm, P 1,516,320.00
50.18 sqm, P 1,846,624.00
75.15 sqm, P 2,630,250.00
107.04 sqm, P 3,371,760.00

Legaspi Village
Makati City
BILTMORE
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
72.40 sqm, P 4,199,200.00
72.40 sqm, P 4,409,160.00
72.40 sqm, P 4,199,200.00
82.60 sqm, P 5,046,860.00
82.60 sqm, P 5,046,860.00
82.60 sqm, P 5,046,860.00
131.10 sqm, P 8,416,620.00
131.10 sqm, P 8,416,620.00
131.10 sqm, P 8,416,620.00
132 sqm, P 8,474,400.00
132 sqm, P 8,474,400.00

Mandaluyong City
(near Edsa)
ARK
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
37.17 sqm, P 1,014,741.00
21.13 sqm, P 576,849.00
21.85 sqm, P 596,505.00
48.75 sqm, P 1,111,500.00
22.92 sqm, P 522,576.00
38.01 sqm, P 775,404.00
20.18 sqm, P 460,104.00
48.53 sqm, P 1,108,764.00
21.85 sqm, P 445,740.00
21.85 sqm, P 445,740.00
47.83 sqm, P 1,090,524.00
65.33 sqm, P 1,489,524.00
125.46 sqm, P 2,998,494.00
10.25 sqm, P 263,000.00

Pasig City
RENAISSANCE
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
279 sqm, P 8,366,700.00

Puerto Azul, Cavite
VISTA DE LORO
RESORT CONDO
71 sqm, P 2,740,000.00

Roxas Boulevard
CHATEAU DE BAIE
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
157 sqm, P 4,025,000.00
184 sqm P 4,625,000.00

Greenhills
San Juan City
ATLANTA
OFFICE UNITS
74.39 sqm, P 2,492,065.00
138.08 sqm, P 5,136,576.00
157.19 sqm, P 6,287,600.00
112.29 sqm, P 4,278,249.00
158.79 sqm, P 6,034,020.00
157.08 sqm, P 5,969,040.00
167.17 sqm, P 6,686,800.00
157.44 sqm, P 6,612,480.00
229.95 sqm, P 10,600,695.00
229.61 sqm, P 10,565,196.00

TOWNHOUSES

Quezon City
ISABELLA PLACE
146 sqm, P 2,702,915.00
87 sqm, P 2,002,482.00
85 sqm, P 1,868,265.00
85 sqm, P 1,868,265.00
85 sqm, P 1,868,265.00

Quezon City
GRANWOOD
102 sqm,P2,000,000.00
152 sqm, P 3,600,000.00

Quezon City
LA BREA
180 sqm, P2,428,800.00

Pansol, Calamba
RESORT WITH POOL
300 sqm, P4,000,000.00

SUBDIVISIONS

Carmona, Cavite
MANILA SOUTHWOOD
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
612 sqm, P 3,060,000.00
563 sqm, P 2,815,000.00
486 sqm, P 2,430,000.00
486 sqm, P 2,430,000.00
505 sqm, P 2,525,000.00
470 sqm, P 2,350,000.00
548 sqm, P 2,740,000.00
609 sqm, P 3,045,000.00
534 sqm, P 2,670,000.00
1000 sqm, P 5,000,000.00

Valley Golf
Antipolo, Rizal
PARK RIDGE
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
437 sqm, P 1,092,500.00
605 sqm, P 881,400.00
619 sqm, P 1,547,500.00
640 sqm, P 832,000.00
678 sqm, P1,028,500.00

TOWN & COUNTRY
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
834 sqm, P 3,170,500.00
1,151 sqm, P 4,374,000.00
1,145 sqm P 4,350,000.00

BARRINGTON
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
350 sqm, P 1,435,000.00

Sta. Rosa, Laguna
STA.ROSA VILLAGE
HOUSE & LOT
115 sqm, P 821,000.00
125 sqm, P 840,000.00
137 sqm, P 968,000.00
137 sqm, 966,000.00
138 sqm, 968,000.00
178 sqm, P 935,000.00
245 sqm, P 968,000.00

Antipolo City
HILLS OF MAIA ALTA
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
153 sqm, P 627,300.00
153 sqm, P 627,300.00
153 sqm, P 627,300.00
160 sqm, P 768,000.00
164 sqm, P 754,400.00
168 sqm, P 672,000.00
173 sqm, P 761,200.00
177 sqm, P 778,800.00
195 sqm, P 858,000.00
201 sqm, P 804,000.00
300 sqm, P 1,230,000.00
306 sqm, P 1,193,400.00
326 sqm, P 1,238,800.00
357 sqm, P 1,356,000.00

Bay, Laguna
ASIA VILLE
RESORT LOTS
175 sqm, P 350,000.00
175 sqm, P 350,000.00
175 sqm, P350,000.00
183 sqm, P 350,000.00

San Pablo, Laguna
RICHWOOD
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
263 sqm, P 473,400.00
267 sqm, P 480,600.00
271 sqm, P 487,800.00
271 sqm, P 487,800.00

Biñan, Laguna
SAN JOSE VILL.
HOUSE & LOTS
126 sqm, P 820,000.00
120 sqm, P 820,000.00
136 sqm, P 840,000.00
140 sqm, P 970,000.00
197 sqm, P 1,080,000.00

Alfonso, Cavite
RODEO COUNTRYSIDE
925 sqm, P740,000.00
1000 sqm P700,000.00
1000 sqm P800,000.00

Calamba, Laguna
PALACIO REAL
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
150 sqm, P 405,000.00
183 sqm, P 420,900.00
190 sqm, P 513,000.00
192 sqm, P 441,600.00
200 sqm, P 520,000.00
215 sqm, P 451,500.00
222 sqm, P 599,400.00
277 sqm, P 747,900.00
279 sqm, P 753,300.00
283 sqm, P 735,800.00
287 sqm, P 803,600.00
350 sqm, P 945,000.00
400 sqm, P 960,000.00
528 sqm, P 1,425,600.00

Antipolo City
(near Assumption)
FOLIAGE HILLS
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
177 sqm, P 778,800.00
178 sqm, P 783,200.00
180 sqm, P 756,000.00
182 sqm, P 800,800.00
184 sqm, P 809,600.00
185 sqm, P 814,000.00
202 sqm, P 888,800.00
216 sqm, P 864,000.00
240 sqm, P 1,056,000.00
240 sqm, P 1,056,000.00
240 sqm, P 1,056,000.00
261 sqm, P 1,148,400.00

Bucaue, Bulacan
AYUKIT
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
50 sqm, P 143,710.95
50 sqm, P 143,710.95
50 sqm, P 143,710.95
50 sqm, P 143,710.95
60 sqm, P 172,453.00
100 sqm, P 287,421.90
126 sqm P 419,635.97
131 sqm P 376,522.68
146 sqm P 419,636.00
148 sqm P 425,384.41
160 sqm, P 459,875.00
179 sqm, P 514,485.19
205 sqm P 589,215.00
206 sqm, P 592,089.11

Antipolo City
(near Assumption)
COTTONWOOD HEIGHT
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
212 sqm P 975,200.00
216 sqm, P 950,400.00
217 sqm, P 868,000.00
230 sqm, P 1,012,000.00
242 sqm P 1,064,800.00
254 sqm, P 1,016,000.00
303 sqm, P 1,151,400.00
304 sqm P 1,276,800.00
325 sqm, P 1,300,000.00
325 sqm, P 1,300,000.00
359 sqm, P 1,364,200.00
385 sqm, P 1,540,000.00
413 sqm, P 1,734,600.00
459 sqm, P 1,744,200.00

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KB lending contracted 1.5% in Feb. to ₱1.4T

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOR the first time in 16 months, lending by the country's commercial banks contracted by 1.5 percent in February to P1.4 trillion from a year ago.

"The decline in bank lending in February may be linked to the increase in banks' foreclosures (real and other properties owned and acquired), spare capacity in manufacturing, and the current political uncertainty in the run-up to the May presidential elections," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

But he told reporters that the decline in February bank lending—a key driver of domestic productivity—was not worrisome as the first quarter is usually a weak season for lending.

The mining and quarrying and the construction sectors showed marked increases in borrowing during the period, with bank lending to the sectors up 58.8 percent and 25 percent, respectively.

Expansion was also seen in the following sectors: community, social and personal services sector (9.1 percent); transportation, storage and communication sector (6.8 percent); agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector (5.1 percent); and, wholesale and retail trade (1.1 percent).

These sectors accounted for 44.8 percent of outstanding loans as of February.

On the other hand, lending to the manufacturing sector and financial institutions, real estate and business services—which comprised about 50.2 percent of total outstanding loans—declined by 8.7 percent and 8.2 percent, respectively, in February from a year ago.

The BSP, however, remained optimistic that bank lending would increase by 5 percent by the end of the year.

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Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

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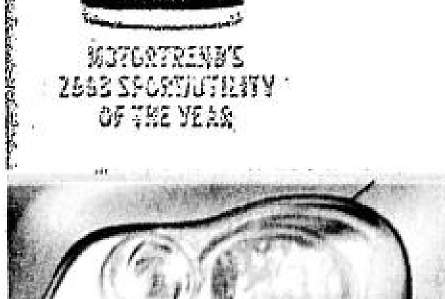
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aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Casino Filipino Trade Team eyes big-time cycling

THE NEWLY formed Casino Filipino Trade Team embarks on an ambitious effort to put the Philippines in the world cycling map.

Labeled as Trade Team 3, the country's first-ever professional cycling squad launches its campaign in various prestigious international tournaments this year in a bid to penetrate the Tour de France, widely regarded as the "NBA of professional cycling".

Backstopped by Chiang Mai Asian Games bronze medallist Victor Espiritu and Pagcor Sports top rider Rhyan Tanguilig, the group will see action in events sanctioned by the international cycling governing body Union Cyclistes International (UCI) before eventually scaling the Trade Team 2 ranks.

Under UCI rules, only teams or individuals categorized under Trade Team 1 or 2 are given the license to join the Tour de France.

According to Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino the squad's international stints are in line with his effort to promote the state-owned gaming firm as "a global corporation with a global mindset and a Filipino heart".

"While the competitions are meant to provide our local riders extensive international exposures, we take them as opportunities to push Casino Filipino to the international market," Genuino said.

Meanwhile, Pagcor sports project director Louie Carlos disclosed that the team's elevation to Trade Team 2 is among the group's basic targets to be able to join the Tour de France.

"The series of tournaments that our cyclists are competing in hopefully will help them realize that goal," he enthused.

Commencing a busy year for the team is the Tour de Langkawi in Malaysia. Other competitions for the group are the Tour de Hokkaido in Japan, Tour de Korea, Tour de Taiwan and the Qingzhang Plateau Int'l Road Race in China.

SCHOOL DONATION

Grade school pupils from the remote barangay of Sorville, Lubang, Occidental Mindoro need not walk for more than two hours just to reach the nearest school. With a new two-classroom building donated by taipan Lucio C. Tan, school is just minutes away from the residents of this far flung barrio. Photo shows Tan (center) turning over the Deed of Donation to Lubang Mayor Juan Sanchez and other school officials. With Tan are the following officers of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCII): (front row, from left) secretary general Jose Ngaw; welfare committee head Enrique Chua; and VP Vicente Sitosta. Partly hidden are Lt. Gen. Salvador M. Mison (second row, third from right), president of Tan's Basic Holdings Corp, and Andres Co (second row, center) of Zebra Holdings.

Product FILES

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Chocafe
Vanillie
Cappuccino

BITS Clips

Little chefs in the making

SUMMER fun awaits kids right in the kitchen as San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center brings you Kids Kitchen Camp. This enjoyable gastronomic camp is open to all youngsters age 8 to 13 years old who are interested to learn cooking and baking while having fun and meeting new friends. First batch starts on April 27, 28 and 30, second batch on May 4, 5 and 7, and the last batch on May 11, 12 and 14. Sessions will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, Legazpi cor. Eagle Streets, Barrio Ugong, Pasig City. Register and enroll them now at 671-9876 locals 2771, 402, 404 & 405. Fee is only P1,200 for the entire course. Limited slots only.

Titania products showcased at WTC

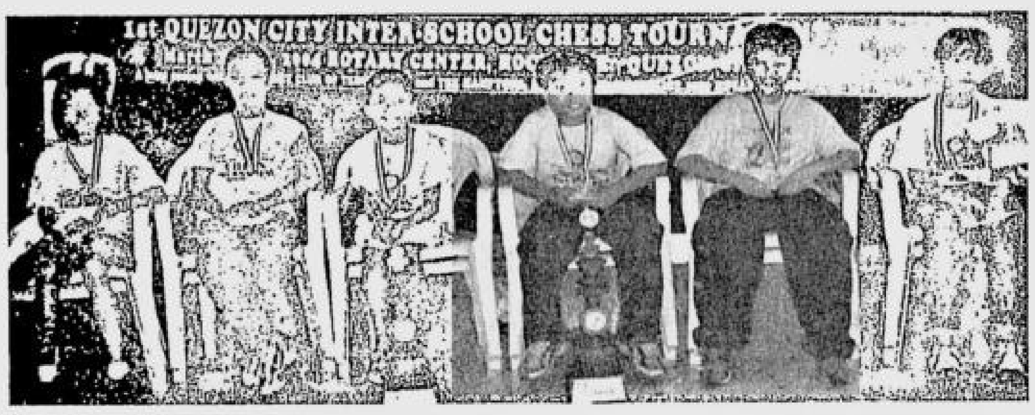
ON APRIL 26 to 28, Titania Foot and Beauty Care products from Germany will be showcased in a first ever sports and leisure show at the World Trade Center. Customers will find the complete range of Titania products. Visit its booths S2 and S3. Titania is exclusively distributed by Filstar Distributors Corporation and are available at the following stores: Landmark, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Crossings Department Stores, Shopwise Libis, Puregold and selected Watsons and PCX branches nationwide. Interested retailers may visit the Titania booth for inquiries on dealership.

'It's a Kids World' slated

UNLOCKING kids potentials and innate talents will be cultivated in the upcoming event entitled "It's a Kids World" to be held on May 27 to 30, at the SM Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall Mandaluyong. Kids aged 3 to 13 can participate at the event contests carefully designed to enhance their potentials and talents. Competitions include: Ms and Mr Kids World, Dance Group, Choral Group, On the Spot Drawing Contest, Essay Writing Contest, Taekwondo Competition, and contest for Dad and Son and Mom and Daughter tandem. Different family friendly products and services will be showcased during the fair. Exhibitors are invited to join. For more information, call 813-0148/893-9729.

Fotogs to invade Puerto Princesa

PHOTOGRAPHERS from Metro Manila, other parts of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will invade the city of Puerto Princesa in Palawan on April 17 and 18 for an on-the-spot photo contest with the city as the subject. Dubbed "The Faces of of a Princess", participants can shoot the city proper, resorts and islets within Puerto Princesa. Photographers from Luzon may travel in group. They can avail the Puerto Princesa OTS package which includes roundtrip airfare (departs Manila at 9 a.m., April 17/departs Puerto Princesa at 9 a.m., April 19), hotel accomodations (triple sharing), breakfast, constest registration fee with one roll of film, free processing and contest print. The grand prize is P40,000 plus a trophy. For inquiries, contact FPPF c/o Lerma/Vincent at tel. nos. 843-5341/813-7420.


1st QUEZON CITY INTER-SCHOOL CHESS TOURN
ROTARY CENTER, ROC

FIRST QUEZON CITY INTER-SCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Rotary Club of Sta. Mesa, Q.C. District 3780 and Rotary Club of Teddington and the Hamptons, London, UK, announced the winners of First Quezon City Inter-School (Elementary) Chess Tournament held at the Rotary Center, Roces Avenue, QC last March 20 and 21. With the theme 'Search for the Grandmaster,' president Wilson K. Lim (RCSMQC) in cooperation with the Rotary Chess Education Initiative chaired by David Lindsley of England, gave respective awards to winners in the age group 8 to 12 years old elementary participants. From left: Girl category- Maylene Enciso (bronze medal), Sherlyn Dizon (silver), and Luzzel Dacayo of Kamuning Elem. School (gold). Boy category -Steven James Dacanay of Cubao Elem. School (gold medal), Marc Christian Nazario (silver) and Joseph John Gutierrez (bronze).

Luzon schools sweep UBF's culinary grand prix

REGIONAL champion teams from schools in Luzon made a sweep of the awards in the Culinary Grand Prix competition of UBF Foodsolutions, the foodservice company of Unilever Philippines.

The team from Lyceum of Batangas won in the UBF Dream Team Challenge. The team from University of Regina Carmeli won in the Knorr New Asia Cuisine Competition. The team from De La Salle Lipa won in the Lipton Mixing Competition.

The teams received cash awards, all expense paid trips, trophies and medals, and product gift packs.

Special awards also went to the team from Lyceum Batangas, such as the Caltex Sulit Sa Gamit Award, the NMI Creative Culinary Presentation Award, the F&B World Magazine Foodservice Excellence Award, and the Lipton Mocktail Mixing Competition Award.

The team from University of Regina Carmeli also received the Knorr New Asia Cuisine Special Award.

More than 800 students from 22 colleges and universities attended the event. The is a program of UBF Foodsolutions, the foodservice arm of Unilever-Bestfoods.

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Province of Zamboanga del Norte
MUNICIPALITY OF PRESIDENT MANUEL A. ROXAS
Poblacion, Pres. Manuel A. Roxas, Zamboanga del Norte

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Pres. Manuel A. Roxas thru the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) hereby invites manufacturers, suppliers and / or distributors to apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the supply of various heavy equipments and spare parts.

The approved budget for this contract is P4,940,000.00

Schedule of activities	Date	Time
1. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	April 22-29, 2004	
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	April 22-29, 2004	
3. Pre-Bid Conference/Eligibility checking	April 29, 2004	2:00 p.m.
4. Opening of Bids	May 18, 2004	2:00 p.m.

The public bidding shall be held at the Upper House, Municipal Hall, Poblacion, Pres. Manuel A. Roxas, ZN.

Only eligible suppliers who will be notified by fax, mail or phone shall be issued the Bid Document upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand P2,000.00) Pesos.

For more information, please inqure from the BAC Secretariat, cellphone # 0920-812-4257.

The Municipal Government of Pres. Manuel A. Roxas reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. The government further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation

(Sgd.) NENEN T. MARTINEZ
BAC Chairman

(PDI – April 17 & 26, 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF SCRAP METALS AND WASTE OIL

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: APRIL 30, 2004 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: MMD, NPC HO, DILIMAN, QC.

The National Power Corporation will conduct a public bidding for the sale of the following items:

Item	Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1.	One (1) Lot - Junk and Scrap Metals consisting of Unserviceable, Used and Retired Plant Parts (per Listing and Pictures attached to the Bid Forms), Located at TIWI GPP, Tiwi, Albay Province.	P 4,692,704 00/Lot
2.	One (1) Lot - Waste Oil consisting of Used Lube Oil and Sludge Oil, approximately 300,000 liters and stored at Tanks 1 & 2, Setting/De-watering Basins, and Pipeline at Pinamucan DPP, Batangas City.	P 600,000.00/Lot

ALL OFFERS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN THE BID FORM WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (2003, original or BIR certified true copy).
3. FOR BIDDERS OF ITEM NO. 2, EMB-DENR ACCREDITATION AS WASTE TRANSPORTER AND WASTE TREATER IS REQUIRED.

All interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid forms upon presentation of a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return and payment of P500.00 / set which is non-refundable For inquiries see or call Mr. S. V. Lomuntad, Jr. at MMD, NPC Head Office, corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City with Tel No 924-5384

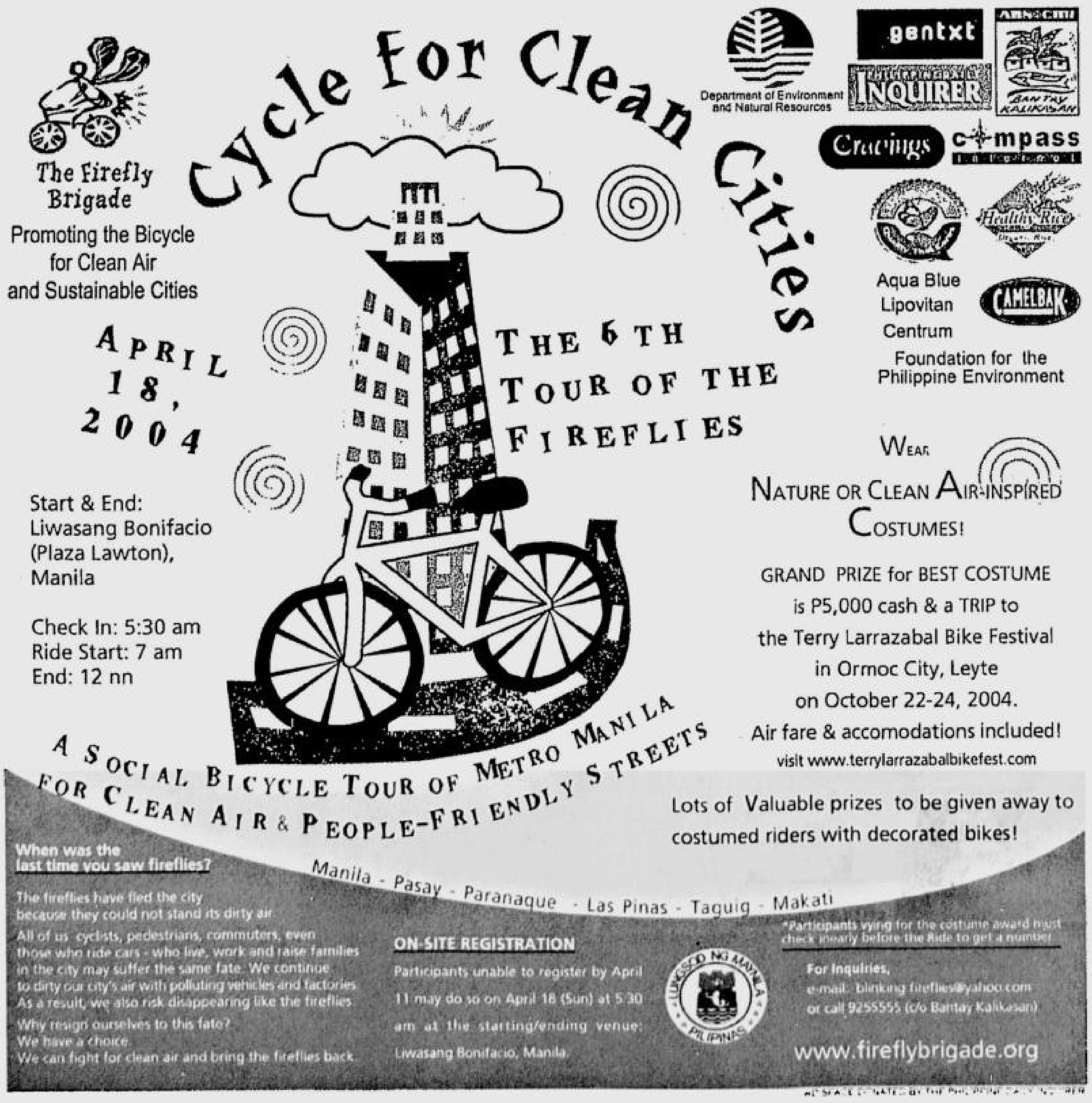
Inspection and actual sounding of waste oil shall be held on April 28, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. at Pinamucan Diesel Power Plant. All prospective bidders are required to be present on this date to witness the sounding of the waste oil. Also, all bidders are required to secure certification from Pinamucan DPP that they attended the sounding of the waste oil.

Deadline for the issuance of the bid forms is on April 27, 2004 until 4:30 p.m.

For the Materials Management Department

(Sgd) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI - April 15 16 & 17 2004)


Cycle for Clean Cities

The Firefly Brigade
Promoting the Bicycle for Clean Air and Sustainable Cities

APRIL 18, 2004

THE 6TH TOUR OF THE FIREFLIES

Start & End:
Liwasang Bonifacio (Plaza Lawton), Manila

Check In: 5:30 am
Ride Start: 7 am
End: 12 nn

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When was the last time you saw fireflies?

The fireflies have fled the city because they could not stand its dirty air.
All of us cyclists, pedestrians, commuters, even those who ride cars - who live, work and raise families in the city may suffer the same fate. We continue to dirty our city's air with polluting vehicles and factories. As a result, we also risk disappearing like the fireflies.
Why resign ourselves to this fate?
We have a choice.
We can fight for clean air and bring the fireflies back.

ON-SITE REGISTRATION
Participants unable to register by April 11 may do so on April 18 (Sun) at 5:30 am at the starting/ending venue: Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

*Participants vying for the costume award must check in early before the Ride to get a number

For Inquiries,
e-mail: blinking fireflies@yahoo.com
or call 9255555 (c/o Bantay Kalikasan)

www.fireflybrigade.org

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TESDA Complex, East Service Road
South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila

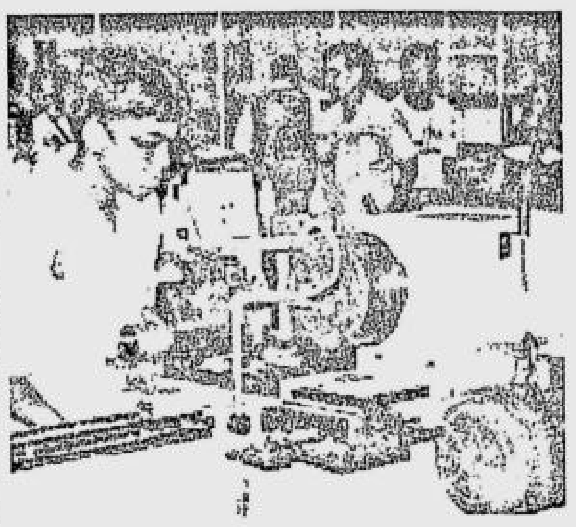
Gusto mong maging iskolar?

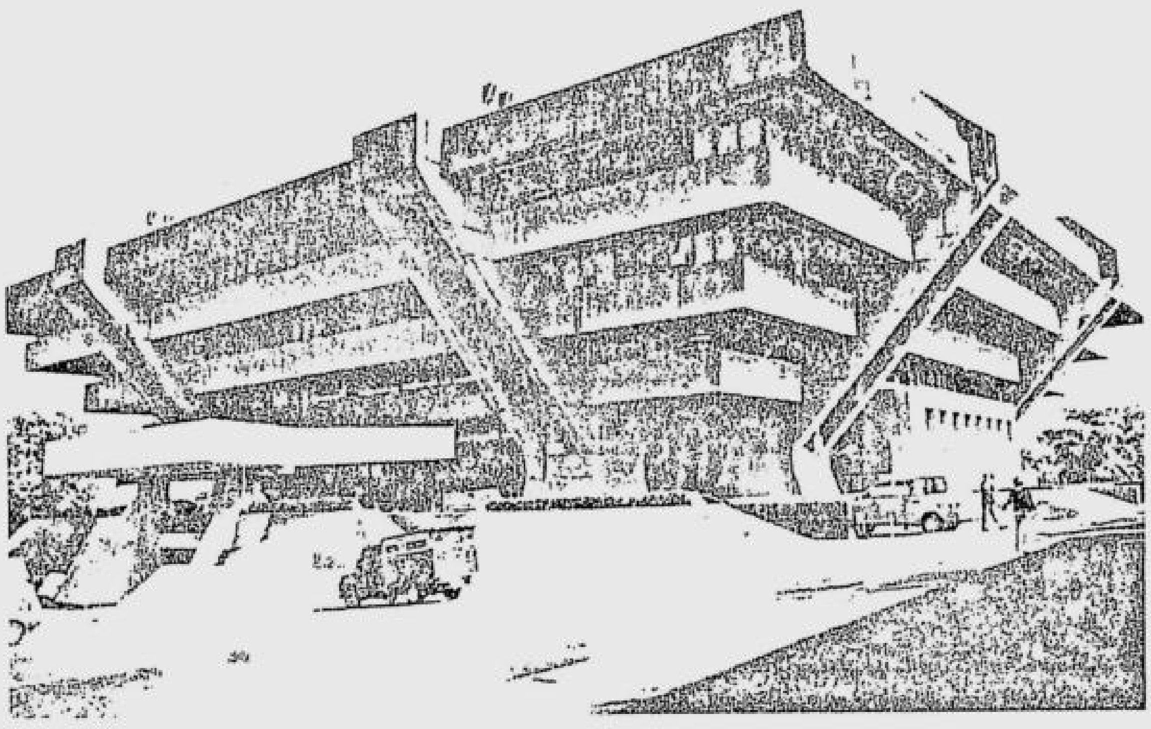
Magpatala sa mga Kursong Bokasyonal

Ang Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) ay nagkakaloob ng tulong sa mahihirap ngunit natatanging graduate ng high school na nagnanais kumuha ng kursong teknikal bokasyonal.

Sa ilalim ng Private Education Student Fund Assistance (PESFA) Program ng TESDA, ang mag-aaral ay makatatanggap ng P4,500 para sa matrikula; panggastos na P2,500 bawat semester; at P250 bawat semester para sa mga aklat. Bukas ang programang ito sa mga mag-aaral na ang general grade average sa pagtatapos ng high School ay hindi bababa ng 80% at ang taunang kinikita ng pamilya ay hindi hihigit sa P120,000. Ang mga kurso sa ilalim ng programang ito ay tumatagal ng mula isa hanggang tatlong taon.

Ang TESDA ay sangay ng Department of Labor and Employment na nagsasagawa ng mga plano para sa pag papaunlad ng kasanayan ng mga mangagagawa. Nagtatakda rin ito ng pamantayan at pagsusulit sa kakayahang teknikal bokasyonal at direksyon para sa pagpapalaganap ng technical-vocational education at training institutions sa pribado at pampublikong sektor.





Iba pang programa at serbisyo ng TESDA

Dual Training System (DTS)

Sa pamamagitan ng programang ito, nakapagsasanay ang mag-aaral maging sa mga kompanya. Dito ay pawang makikinabang ang mga mag-aaral, paaralan,at kompanyang pinagsasanayan.

Para sa mag-aaral, mataas na uring pagsasanay at kaalaman ang kanyang matututunan kaya't malaki ang pag-asa na siya ay makahanap ng trabaho pagkatapos ng pagsasanay. Sa bahagi naman ng kompanya, nahuhubog nito ang mga manggagawa ayon sa pangangailangan nito. Nagagarantiyahan na magiging mahusay at produktibo ang manggagawa. At para naman sa mga training centers, hindi na nila kailangan pang magkaroon ng mamahaling kagamitan sa pagsasanay. Bagkus, ang kaalaman at kakayahan ng mga mag-aaral ay angkop sa mga trabaho sa merkado.

Curriculum and Resource Materials Development Program

Ito ang pagbubuo at pagsasagawa ng mga curriculum at iba pang kakailanganing bagay sa pagsasanay. Pangunahing layunin nito ang lumikha ng mga plano at programa para sa curriculum at magtalaga ng mga pamantayan at patakaran ng mga programa para sa mga technical-vocational education and training (TVET) institutions.

Maritime Certificate Verification

Bahagi ng serbisyo ng TESDA ang pagbeberipika ng Standard of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) '95 certificates ng mga marinong Pilipino. Sa pamamagitan nito'y tinitiyak na ang mga marino ay may angkop na kasanayan ayon sa hinihiling ng kanilang tungkulin o posisyon sa barko.

Overseas Performing Artists and Accredited Training Institutions

TESDA rin ang naggagawad ng artist record book sa mga nagnanais maging overseas performing artist sa pamamagitan ng pagtiyak ng kanilang kakayahan at talento na kailangan sa industriya. Ito rin ang nagbibigay pahintulot sa mga sentro ng pagsasanay para sa mga OPAs kung saan tinitiyak ng TESDA na ang mga batayan at patakaran sa pagsasanay ay maayos na tinutupad at isinasagawa ng mga naturang training centers.

TESDA rin ang nagtatakda ng pagsasanay para sa mga caregivers. Napapanahon ang programang ito dahil sa dumaraming oportunidad para sa mga caregivers sa ibang bansa.

Iba't ibang kuwento ng tagumpay

Pagpupunyagi ni Arden

Iyon ang maituturing na naging susi ng tagumpay ni Arden A. Siarot. Isang taong kurso sa Electro Mechanics sa ilalim ng Don Bosco Manpower Training Program ang nagbigay sa kanya ng pagkakataon upang makapagtrabaho bilang maintenance electrician sa machine shop department ng Don Bosco.

Hindi lahat doon natapos ang kanyang pagpupunyagi. Sinikap pa rin niyang makapag-aral ng electrical engineering na kanyang tinapos sa loob ng anim na taon. Naging hudyat ito ng marami pang oportunidad na dumating sa kanyang buhay tulad ng pagkakapasok sa isang kompanya na gumagawa ng mga alahas at iba pang novelty items.

Noong 1993, sinubok niya at ng kanyang may-bahay ang paggawa ng miniature dining sets. Ito ay matapos na mabigyan siya ng pagkakataon ng kanyang dating boss, noon ay isa sa may-ari ng pinakamalaking furniture exporter sa Cebu, na gumawa ng silver solder wire para sa mga pangangailangan ng kompanya nito. At ang lahat ay kasaysayan na.

Sa kasalukuyan, si Arden ay nagdidisenyo at gumagawa ng iba't ibang produtko na iniaangkat sa Estados Unidos, Saudia Arabia, at Africa.

Si Ferdie at ang technical education

Ang PESFA ay isa lamang sa mga scholarship programs na pinopondohan ng gobyerno. Marami ang nagnanais na makakuha nito subalit ang tunay na mga mahihirap at matatalino lamang ang nabibigyan ng ganitong mga pagkakataon.

Noong taong 2000, apat na PESFA scholars ang nagbigay ng isang malaking karangalan nang sila ang manguna sa National Telecommunications Commission Board Licensure Examination. Sila iyong mga nagsipagtapos ng dalawang taong General Radio Communications Operator course mula sa Mindoro School of Electronics.

Ang 20-anyos na si Ferdinand L. Bernabe ang naging national topnotcher. Lumaking mahirap, mula elementarya hanggang high school ay mag-isang binalikat ang pag-aaral sa pamamagitan ng pagme-messenger at pagtitinda ng dyaryo.

Tinalikuran ang pangarap na maging sundalo nang maging ganap na siyang Radio Operator sa Malampaya Gas Offshore Plant sa Haliborton, Tabangao, Batangas. Ngayon ay kumikita na siya ng doble sa basic salary ng mga pangkaraniwang empleyado bukod pa sa ibang benepisyo na kanyang tinatanggap.

Naibang larangan ni Christine

Sino'ng mag-aakalang ang nakasanayang gawaing panlalake ay isa na ring larangang sinusuong ng babae? Bakit hindi kung ang isang babae ay may kakayahan at sapat na kaalaman sa mga ganitong gawain.

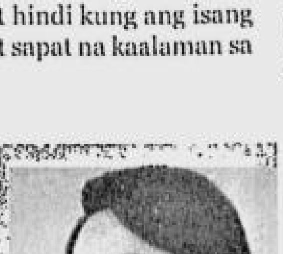
Isang halimbawa si Christine Lawis sa sumasabak sa panlalaking gawain. Mula nang makapagtapos sa TESDA Women's Center (TWC) noong 1999, nakapamasukan na siya sa tatlong iba't ibang kompanya. At simula noong 2001, ginagampanan niya ang trabaho bilang welder sa Wu Kong S. Pte. Ltd., isang Japanese-owned company sa Export Processing Zone sa Cavite.

Upang higit pang mapagbuti ang kanyang kaalaman sa pinasok na larangan, kumuha muli siya ng isang upgrading course sa Tungsten Inert Gas/Manganese Inert Gas sa TWC. Naniniwala siyang sinuman ay kinakailangang magkaroon ng karagdagang pag-aaral at kasanayan upang lagpasan ang mga limitasyon na magsisilbing hadlang sa kanyang tagumpay.

Bagama't sa simula ay duda ang kanyang pamilya na kaya niyang gampanan ang trabahong panlalake, nabura ang lahat nang ito sa kanyang kasalukuyang tinatamasang tagumpay.

Marahil ang lahat ay isa na ring paghahanda ni Christine sa kanyang naisin na magkaroon ng sariling welding fabrication shop sa Bohol.

> *"Ang pagsasanay teknikal at panghanapbuhay ay pangunahing layunin ng pangkalahatang istratehiya ng aking administrasyon para sa pag-unlad."*
>
> **- Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**



Makipag-alam sa Amin!

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AUCTION SALE

CY LOPEZ
PAWNSHOP INC.
CAEG Bldg #7611 Dela Rosa St.,Makati City #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City #15 Gen Santos Ave. lower Bicutan Taguig Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on APRIL 24, 2004 at 9:00am including all items pawned up to November 2003. V. Zamora Jr. lic. Auctioneer
(PDI-April 17, 2004)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby served that the estate of the spouses **ARISTON ARANDILLA and ROSITA F. ARANDILLA** was extrajudicially settled by the heir per Doc. No. 403, Page No. 81, Book No. II, Series of 1994 of the Notarial Register of Atty. Lorety Ildefonso-Orense, Notary Public of Manila
(PDI-April 3, 8 & 17, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CRESENCA VILLAPANE-TAC-AN was extrajudicially settled among her heirs on May 16, 2003 under Deed, as Doc. No. 632, Page 72, Book LII, Series of 2003 of Notary Public Teresita Palma-Donasco of Tandag, Surigao del Sur and Doc. No. 20, Page No 5, Book LIX, Series of 2003 of Notary Public Cipriano U. Asilo of Batangas City.
(PDI-April 3, 11 & 17, 2004)

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'Tsinelas' Festival

DUBBED as the "Footwear Capital of Laguna," Liliw, known for manufacturing durable and affordable slippers, will celebrate the annual Liliw Gat Tayaw Tsinelas Festival on April 21–25. Now on its 3rd year, the festival aims to promote the town's footwear industry.

Exciting and fun-filled activities are lined-up for the five-day event which kicks-off on April 21. Admission is free.

Other activities are: "Gabi ng Magtsitsinelas," a night of ballroom dancing, April 22; Street Dancing and Street Party, April 23. See the town's prettiest ladies as they vie for the title of "Mutya ng Liliw" on April 24 and a special concert showcasing the musical talents of the local folks in "Liliweños in Concert" on April 25.

WIC Golf Cup slated

THIS SUMMER'S big event in the construction industry is the Women In Construction's Amateur Golf Cup to be held on Tuesday, April 20, at the upscale Wack Wack Golf & Country Club. WIC is a non-profit organization advocating the promotion of excellence through the active involvement of women in issues, training and standard setting relevant to the needs of the construction industry & its allied businesses.

To kick off the event is the ceremonial tee at 8:00 a.m. to be done by Marikina's dynamic Mayor Marides Fernando, one of WIC's founding members, Expected to join the tournament are prominent figures in the construction industry and other business personalities.

Proceeds of the golf cup will be used for WIC's various cause-oriented projects.

Major sponsors of the event are San Miguel Corporation, VAZBUILT, Consolidated Constructors & Developers Corporation, Ledesco Development Corporation, Ysa Skin Care Center, ABS Herbs, Linecomm Services Inc., Highview Group, Jose Aliling & Associates, BF Construction Inc., IPM Construction Inc., PS Bank, ETMC Global Trading Inc., Pearl of the Pacific and Abbas Alejandro, Abbas Francisco & Associates.

Tournament tickets are available at WIC Secretariat, Telephone No. 635-2669 or 744-0365. Interested parties may also buy their tickets at Wack Wack on the day of the event.

CAVITE Governor Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi graced the ribbon cutting of "HCG Gallery" – showcase of the innovative and modern HCG Bathroom Fixtures. Manufactured by Hocheng Philippines Corporation, HCG Gallery won the Best Booth Award in the recently concluded WorldBex 2004. Hocheng manufactures the high quality HCG Bathroom fixtures and their plant is located in FCIE Dasmarinas, Cavite. In photo are: Mr. Raul Boncan, Hocheng Philippines' Senior Advisor; VP Steve Chien, AVP for Sales & Marketing, Mr. Sam Lu and Ms. Maeyeth Cayabyab-Cadungog, Manager for Product Management.

UP-Ayala Techno Park Locator Joins US Software Trade Mission

SYSTEMA Computer Solutions Corp. (www.systemacorp.com), a locator inside the UP-Ayala Techno Park in UP Diliman, was selected by CITEM and USAID to take part in a US Software Trade Mission in Washington, D. C. on April 18-24, 2004. During the trade mission, Systema will be paired with US software companies and establish partnerships for software development outsourcing in the Philippines. In the mission, Systema will highlight its ninJAVA J2EE Framework (www.ninjava.net) and its extensive Java outsourcing experience.

Systema has been a locator in UP-Ayala Techno Park since August 1, 2003. In that short period, Systema has been able to develop a number of Java/J2EE web systems in Japanese for its Japanese clients by emphasizing on cost effectiveness and productivity of Filipino programmers, use of a J2EE Framework based development called ninJAVA and a Methodology for offshore software development. Systema has also done extensive Research and Development work by developing a Java/J2EE Mobile Framework called ninJAVA for Mobile. Systema invested heavily on extending ninJAVA to allow both Web and Mobile system development since this is a key technology infrastructure demanded by US and European companies worldwide.

Systema accomplished all of this since its UP-Ayala Techno Park location provided easy access to quality Computer Science graduates from the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila University. Furthermore, the Techno Park allowed us to collaborate with leading professors and I.T. consultants from UP and Ateneo and access to the super computing hardware resources provided by the Sun Java Research Development Center. Systema plans to double its operations in the Techno Park by next year.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II-B
MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

April 14, 2004

NOTICE OF NEGOTIATED SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2610 of the TCCP, as amended, in relation to CMO 5-2003 dated March 17, 2003 and CMO 18-2003 dated 25 July 2003, there will be a Negotiated Sale to be conducted by this Port on April 30, 2004, at 2:30 P.M., to be held at the 2nd Floor, MICP Building, North Harbor, Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila, the herein-described articles in lot. Said articles shall be available for viewing on April 29, 2004.

Lot No. 009-04 MAINSTREAM TRADING R.A. 7651 3rd Advertisement 'As Is Where Is' No Floor Price	4 units Used Assorted Brands 400 cc Motorcycles. 2 Suzuki, 1 Honda & Kawasaki Note: All units have dismantled side cover accessories. 1 unit 400 cc Motorcycles, chassis with engine only 2 units 400 cc Motorcycles, engine only 2 pcs. Radiator 1 pc. 4wd Front Bull Bar 38 pcs. Bucket Seats Location: ICTSI CY, Contr. No. KKFU-7118631
Lot. No. 011-04 ROSITA BERNALES R.A. 7651 3rd Advertisement 'As Is Where Is' No Floor Price	One (1) unit Used Ford Van XLT Aerostar, maroon, lhd, hydramatic. 3.0L, model 1995, VIN: IMFDA31X2SZA73182 Location: ICTSI CFS 3 Stalag
Lot No. 013-04 UNKNOWN CONSIGNEE R.A. 7651 3rd Advertisement 'As Is Where Is' No Floor Price	One (1) unit used Honda Accord, lhd, silver gray, a/t, model 1994, 4 dr., damaged rear hood, cracked windshield, all over rusty body. Location: ICTSI CFS 3 Stalag
Lot No. 014-04 CHENG SUL PVC INC. R.A. 7651 3rd Advertisement 'As Is Where Is' No Floor Price	Two (2) units Grand Saloon Hyundai Van, color-blue and silver gray with assorted spare parts. Dilapidated body. Chassis Nos. 047602 & 000752. 1 pc. sawed body shell (Hyundai Sonata) 2 pcs. used tires with rim Location: ICTSI CY. Contr. No. WHLU-4932842
Lot No. 021-04 MATAPAT TRADING R.A. 7651 3rd Adverisement 'As Is Where Is' No Floor Price	Two (2) units used Hyundai Grace Van/Saloon without engines, lhd, m/t, rusty, dented body with Chassis Nos. KMJFD37LPP01390 and KMJFD37LPSU182759. Location: ICTSI Stalag 3
Lot No. 024-04 VARIOUS CONSIGNEES R.A. 7651 3rd Advertisement 'As Is Where Is' No Floor Price	18 pcs. Rattan Sun Deck Chair 1 case Assorted Personal Effects 200 kgs. Printed Material 70 kgs.Transparent Tape Location: ORIENT FREIGHT

Basic Guidelines:

1. File the duly accomplished Registration Form (name, address, TIN and other relevant circumstances to be indicated).
2. Php2,000.00 Registration Fee (Non-Refundable).
3. Php20,000.00 Cash Bond (Refundable).
4. For a successful negotiated sale, at least three offers shall be tendered in sealed envelopes and shall be opened in public by the Auction Committee in the presence of the COA representative at a time, date and place specified in the Notice of Negotiated Sale.
5. The highest offer from the sealed bids shall serve as the starting amount in the open negotiation that follows among the participants. Only those who submitted sealed bids for the negotiated sale shall be admitted as participants in the open negotiation.
6. The highest offer from among the participants in the open negotiation, which shall in no way be lower than the starting amount, shall immediately be announced as the winning offer, and thereafter referred to the Commissioner of Customs and the Secretary of Finance for approval. The announcement of the winning offer by the Auction Committee shall serve to conclude the negotiated sale, after which no other offer shall be considered.
7. A guarantee deposit in cash or manager's check equivalent to 20% of the highest offer shall be paid prior to its referral for the Commissioner's approval.
   Payment by Cashier's/Manager's Checks to the BOC/MICP shall bear the following.
   a. Pay to the order of Land Bank of the Philippines-BOC MICP E.O.
   b. For credit of the Bureau of Customs
   c. For the account of. ________________
   Bidder
8. An additional thirty percent (30%) of the offer shall be paid by the party concerned within forty-eight (48) hours from receipt of the notice from ACDD, informing the concerned party of the DOF Secretary's approval. The remaining fifty percent (50%) shall be paid within seven (7) calendar days therefrom under pain of forfeiture of the initial payments.
9. The provisions of Sec. III (8) of CMO 5-2003 hereof, shall be applied in case of a failed negotiated sale or when the price offer is rejected by the Commissioner of Customs or the Secretary of Finance.

For further details, please contact Mr. Isidro A. Pre, Chief, Auction & Cargo Disposal Division, MICP, Tel. No. 247-09-77.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. REYNALDO S. NICOLAS**
District Collector of Customs

PDI -- April 17, 2004

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JOB Market

DISPOSAL SALE

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used office furniture/ equipment, household appliances, computer equipment, lawn equipment and one (1) unit 1993 Mitsubishi Pajero, 2-door, silver color, 4x4, manual transmission on an "AS IS-WHERE IS" basis.

Properties can be inspected at the USDVA/Outpatient Clinic, 2201 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City and American Battle Monument Cemetery, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City on April 19-20, 2004 from 9:00-11:00 am and 1:00-3:00 pm. Bid forms are available at the USDVA/Outpatient Clinic. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be received by the USDVA Outpatient Clinic Cashier during the sale.

For further information and lot descriptions, please call Mr. Manuel Fidel C. Holandez or Mr. Alvin Sebastian at Tel. Nos. 833-4566 to 69 ext. 8205/8207.

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Editor Aries Espinosa

The North Face supports oldest man who climbed Mt. Everest

EVER since Sir George Everest, Surveyor General of India from 1830 to 1843, recorded the location of Everest in 1841, the world of mountain climbing has never been the same again.

Mt. Everest is located in Northeastern Nepal and stands 29,028 feet above sea level. Everest was first attempted in 1921 by a group led by George Mallory. To date some 4,000 people have tried to climb Everest, around 660 have succeeded and over 142 have died. In Nepal, they call the mountain Sagarmatha while in Tibet, they call the mountain Chomolungma. It is considered one of the most treacherous and the highest mountain in the world. With occasional precarious storms, furious avalanches and unpredictable weather changes, climbing Everest can ultimately kill you if you're not fully prepared and trained to reach its peak.

Being the highest mountain in the world, climbing it can make you an instant celebrity, for very few can accomplish such a treacherous feat. But it has a price, for many have tried to climb the mountain and died trying. Thus, a person's strive for excellence to climb Everest is indeed an admirable trait.

To be able to accomplish things despite seemingly insurmountable odds is something any person can be proud of. Such is the case of Yuichiro Miura. The 70-year old Japanese is also a professional skier and was among the 31 climbers who made it to the top of Mt. Everest via the southeast route.

The North Face is an adventure brand known to many mountaineers. With its tagline "Never Stop Exploring", The North Face supported the oldest man as he scaled the 8,850-meter-high monster mountain last 2003 to become known in history books as its oldest mountain conqueror. The North Face aptly supported him with the best tents, packs, sleeping bags, accessories and footwear from The North Face, thus, Muira continued onwards and triumphantly conquered Mt. Everest. Aside from being the oldest man to climb Mt. Everest, he is also considered the first man to ski down Mt. Everest almost three decades ago.

According to a report after the momentous mountain ascent, an excited Yuichiro said "The wind at the summit is blowing very hard about 30m, and temperature is -20C! It feels great to be here! Will descend quickly and safely".

Yuichiro Miura, has grandchildren Yuta, age 37, and Gota, age 34, a freestyle mogul Olympian at the '94 and '98 Winter Games, who also climbed Mt. Everest.

Muira and The North Face, a man with a strong will, insurmountable grit and unparalleled determination and an athletic brand that never stops exploring. Truly, one perfect and lethal combination indeed.

PHOTO BY JUN CAPULONG

LEVI'S LAUNCHES EYEWEAR COLLECTION

The Levi's brand brings a fresh, new fashion outlook to consumers in Asia with the launch of its first eyewear collection that is eye-catching and sure to make heads turn. The launch was held at the Manila Peninsula Hotel. Shown are (seated, from left): Clarence Lee (brand manager of Levi's Eyewear), Beena Advani and Sham Advani (CP Optics Inc). Standing (from left) are: Ramu Sitaldas (president of Aibep), Kenny Nuyda (Inquirer AVP for advertising), Naresh Mansukani, Albert Uhamchandani (president of Esquirre International), Vishnu Hathiramani (president of FICC), Pepito Olarte (Inquirer VP for advertising), and Sashi Mohinani.

BEARD PAPA CREAM PUFF SPECIALTY STORE OPENS

A huge turn-out of cream puff lovers were on hand to witness the successful opening of the country's first and only cream puff specialty store at Loop road, Virramall, Greenhills last Saturday March 27. The name of this first and only cream puff specialty store is Beard Papa. Beard Papa originated from Japan and is now fast becoming the latest food craze in the world. Finally, the country will now have a specialty store offering freshly baked all-natural cream puffs to the public. Supervised by Beard Papa's operations manager - Lyndon Galang, the event was highlighted by a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by a colorful dragon dance, which was graced by the Honorable Justice Gregory Ong and Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito. Attending the opening of the first Beard Papa branch in the country were several top TV & movie celebrities, which includes Mickey Ferriols, John Lloyd Cruz, Chynna Ortaleza, Gabby Eigenmann, James Blanco and Mahan Salvador, among others.

SAKE SAN TAKES JAPANESE DINING TO HIGHER LEVEL

At Sake San Japanese Restaurant and Sake Bar by Triple V, gourmands will taste Japanese cuisine as they've never experienced it before. Sake San Japanese Restaurant and Sake Bar welcomes diners to a new level and concept of Japanese dining, the realm of nouvelle Japanese cuisine and, of course, classic Japanese dishes. 26 years since its first restaurant opened, Triple-V has constantly introduced innovations in the restaurant business, both in terms of cuisine and service. Movie stars Marvin Agustin, Dominic Ochoa, Mylene Dizon and Angelika dela Cruz as well as personalities from the government, business and media graced the opening of Sake San at the 4th level, Building B, SM Megamall recently.

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CITY OF MAKATI

FAX CABLE HANDS OVER DONATION

Fax Cable, a company that deals with sales and maintenance of office communications and automation solutions, donated 21 computers monitors to Don Bosco Training Center's Technical Institute in Pasong Tamo, Makati City. The institute will use the monitors to train electronics technology students in computer servicing and to obtain usable monitor parts. The company made the donation with the intention of helping other people and making better use of old, unclaimed monitor units. It is a goodwill gesture that the Don Bosco students graciously accepted. Owned and managed by Laine Ramoso, Fax Cable was initially known as a fax machine repair and maintenance company. It has now diversified its business as it now repairs and services other office machines like IT, telecommunications and office equipment, as well as related electronic devices. It also provides on-call servicing, preventive maintenance and PABX installation for various industries. Fax Cable has 3 branches to serve you. You can visit or call them anytime whenever you need repair and maintenance services: Virramall (722-1546), Shangri-La Edsa Plaza (637-5483) and SM Manila (526-3885)

ProductFILES

Heaven-sent news from Touch Mobile

Hulog ng Langit!
touch mobile

HERE'S some good news brought to you by Touch Mobile, the great mobile service designed for the entire Filipino family.

Touch Mobile's 64K Super Family SIM is now even more affordable at only P90, so you can easily enjoy the many great value-added services that are truly heaven-sent.

Even with the more economically priced Super Family 64K SIM, subscribers can still store up to 450 names in their phonebook and up to 80 text messages in their inbox. What's more, this powerful SIM comes with a free P50 load which new users can use either for calling, texting, MMS downloads, or even accessing the new TM Home Info Text, a menu-based SMS information service readily available and specially designed for the Filipino family. With 10 interesting and helpful topics, ranging from family matters to job openings, the TM Home Info is simply family infotainment at its best.

Touch Mobile also offers its valued subscribers an affordable P10 autoload, arguably the lowest in the country. Beyond P10, users can easily reload in increments as low as P1 up to P150. Plus, big rewards are also in store for loyal subscribers such as an additional 10 percent bonus load on their every third reload.

The Touch Mobile Super Family 64K SIM and the Touch Mobile lowest Autoload are available at all Globe Telecom Business Centers, authorized distributors and retail shops, and Touch Mobile selling booths at your favorite malls.

Karel and Oheya: On the rise

SHE is Penelope of "Berks" on Saturdays, a My Myx VJ on weekdays, occasionally, a commercial model. That is rising teen star Karel Marquez for you.

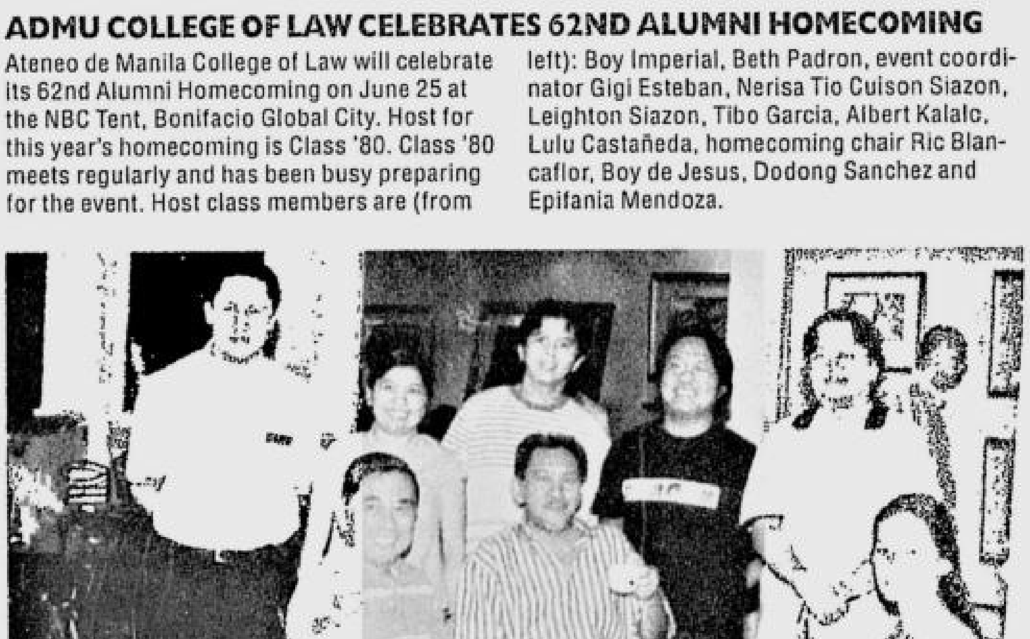
Throughout her busy schedule, she often munches on a pack or two of the newest snack on the rise - Oheya! Multigrain Snack from Oishi. Oheya! is made from four grains namely corn, wheat, rice and oats. It comes in cheese flavor and is fortified with a healthy dose of Vitamin A. No wonder people call it "the good snack". Karel features in the product's launch campaign. Oheya!'s cheesy bite-sized chips go well with her active lifestyle. Oheya! is now available at leading supermarkets, grocery stores and sari-sari stores nationwide

NORTHWESTERN ALUMNI CLUB FETES NEW SGV CHAIR

New SGV/Ernst&Young chair David Balangue, MBA '77 (seated, center) was honored by his fellow alumni at the Manila Polo Club recently. Those who attended were (seated) Bunny Fabella, Nina Cruz, Bernie Siy, J-Ann Rivera, Dr. Dina DJ Campos and Cezar Yatco; (standing) Tony Jacinto, Jimmy DyLiacco, Dave Chua, Chris Lim, Carol Dominguez, Ante Dionisio, Rosky Sevilla Jr., Chiqui Quintos, Melchor Guerrero, Pauline Ick, Paeng Javellana, Ferdie Pecson, Joel Limjap, Club president Jojo Poe, Johnny Collas Jr and Kevin Belmonte.

ADMU COLLEGE OF LAW CELEBRATES 62ND ALUMNI HOMECOMING

Ateneo de Manila College of Law will celebrate its 62nd Alumni Homecoming on June 25 at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City. Host for this year's homecoming is Class '80. Class '80 meets regularly and has been busy preparing for the event. Host class members are (from left): Boy Imperial, Beth Padron, event coordinator Gigi Esteban, Nerisa Tio Cuison Siazon, Leighton Siazon, Tibo Garcia, Albert Kalalo, Lulu Castañeda, homecoming chair Ric Blancaflor, Boy de Jesus, Dodong Sanchez and Epifania Mendoza.



MOCHA BLENDS SUPPORTS POETRY READING AT SHANGRI-LA

Mocha Blends recently supported Poetry Reading presented by Shangri-La Plaza Corp and Anvil Publishing held at Shangri-La's Art Plaza, a section of the Shang showcasing visual arts and interest of artists and art connoisseurs. Mocha Blends' participation is in line with their trust of uplifting the arts and culture of our country. Sitting (from left) are Virgilio Almario, Alfred Yuson and Charms Tianzon. Standing (from left) are Luis Apanacio (store manager of Mocha Blends - Shangri-La Plaza branch), Coochy Mamaclay (marketing manager of Mocha Blends), a UP student, Ramil Gulle and Ramon Sunico.

SEX BOMB SINGERS ENDORSE NO. I ELECTRIC FAN ASAHI

The No. 1 dance group (Sex Bomb Singers) signed a contract with the No. 1 Electric Fan Manufacturer, Asahi Electrical Manufacturing Corp and its advertising agency PIM Events. Sex Bomb Singers' Rochelle, Jopay, Izzy, Yvette, Monique and Weng will be the official endorsers of Asahi Home Appliances. From left are Jones B. Alabanza Jr. vice president/COO and Ino Marquinez, president of PIM Events & Advertising, Teddy Sy, general manager and Freddy Sy, marketing manager of Asahi Electrical Manufacturing Corporation and director Patricia Perez representing Focus Entertainment and Dennis Solis, marketing consultant for Asahi Electrical Manufacturing Corporation

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY
104 years
143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: 746-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No.: 712-2782

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph
Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

ALAN SAN LUIS FERRERA

Of San Antonio Village, Makati City

peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 42
on April 12, 2004

His loving parents **Colonel & Mrs. Wenceslao A. Ferrera**, his brother **Albert**, sisters & brothers-in-law, **Me-Ann Ferrera, Taba & Kiko Villaruel, Atoy & Apollo Llagas, Owa & Marc de Guzman**, his wife **Estrella** and children **Nina, Myka, Ana** and **Chris**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Chapel 4, Sacred Heart Street near corner Kamagong Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 18, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque at 3:00 p.m. after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Olimpia "Impiang" Reyes Santiago

of Marikina City

Former Principal of Marikina Elementary School

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 15th of April 2004 at the age of 97.

Her children: **Pit Santiago, Corazon Santos, Norma Victorino,** and **Nydia Canceran**; children-in-law; **Edna Santiago, Josefino Santos, Mario Victorino,** and **Froc Conceran**; siblings: **Remedios and Herman**; Grandchildren: **Niel, Arlo, Arlyn, Ivy, Pitt, Edrick, Glen, Ann, Neil, Alvin, Allen,** and **Ma. Nerissa**; grandchildren-in-law: **Lee, Ivory,** and **Anna**; Great-grandchildren: **Kate and Kissy**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at #13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City (Paket Santiago Memorial Homes).

Interment will be on Sunday, April 18, 2004, at the Loyola Memorial Park after the celebration of the 2 P.M. Holy Mass at Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish Church, Marikina City.

CLASSIFIEDS

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Reinsurance of NAPOCOR Minor Policies)

The DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee (JBC), thru the Eligibility and Evaluation Group (EEG) is inviting qualified local and foreign reinsurance companies/brokers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the reinsurance of National Power Corporation's

Policy	Indicative Budget	Period Covered
Protection and Indemnity Cover 2nd Bidding	US $ 202,352 85	2400 HRS 24 May 2004 to 2400 HRS 24 May 2005
Motor Vehicle Fleet Insurance	P 8,073,500 00	2400 HRS 01 June 2004 to 2400 HRS 01 June 2005
Marine Open Policy	P 30,375,788 00	2400 HRS 23 June 2004 to 2400 HRS 23 June 2005

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

ISSUANCE OF ELIGIBILITY & BID DOCUMENTS	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF ELIGIBILITY AND BID ENVELOPES
April 19 to May 18, 2004 9 00 am-5 00 pm JBC Secretariat 7th Floor-EDPC Bldg., BSP Complex Roxas Blvd., Manila	April 28, 2004 2 00 pm Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila	May 19, 2004 2 00 pm Office of the Chairman Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila

Eligibility and bid documents shall be issued to applicants upon filing a Letter of Intent to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and payment of a non-refundable fee of US$200 00 for each policy applied for, to the National Power Corporation, however, for the P&I Cover, bidders who participated in the 1st Bidding shall be exempt from payment of the Bid Fee

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations

The JBC and EEG reserve the right to reject any and all bids or Letters of Intent, waive any defect therein and accept the offer that they deem most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) Atty. **PORFIRIO B. VILLENA, JR.**
Director IV, PDMSG
Presiding Officer, Evaluation and Eligibility Group
DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee

Inquirer-April 4,11,17,2004

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
WESTERN VISAYAS
Mandurriao, Iloilo City
Telefax # (033) 3210312 / 3211036
E-mail: dohrfo6@philwebinc.com

SENTRONG SIGLA
Health ang una!

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Health – Center for Health Development – Western Visayas, Mandurriao, Iloilo City is inviting duly DOH Accredited Suppliers to participate in the **PUBLIC BIDDING FOR DRUGS, MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND LABOR & CATERING/BOARD AND LODGING.**

Instructions, Terms and Conditions:

1. A complete set of bid tender documents can be secured from RBAC-Drugs & Meds Secretariat, DOH CHD – WV, Mandurriao, Iloilo City beginning March 29, 2004 after having been accredited. Bid quotations shall be duly signed by the supplier / contractor / caterer on every page of the bid tender.
2. Public bidding will be conducted on the following dates at 9:00 AM:
   April 15, 2004 – Construction materials and labor
   April 16, 2004 – Catering / Board and Lodging
   April 19, 2004 – Drugs and Medicines
3. A re bidding will be conducted on the following dates:
   April 21, 2004 – Construction Materials and Labor (9:00 AM)
   – Catering / Board and Lodging (2:00 PM)
4. Bids shall be accompanied by a 1% Bidder's Bond of the approved budget cost for the items / services to be bid, in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit; one and a half percent (1 ½%) in the form of bank guarantee; two and a half percent (2 ½%) in the form of surety bond; and one hundred percent (100%) in the form of foreign government guarantee.
5. The BAC reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award and to reject any or all bids which may be considered most advantageous to the government.
6. Bidders are invited to be present at the time and place stated above where the bids will be opened.
7. The winning bidder shall post a Performance Bond equivalent to 5% of the Approved contract price in the form of cash, manager's check, certified check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit; ten percent (10%) in the form of bank guarantee; thirty percent (30%) in the form of surety bond and one hundred percent (100%) in the form of foreign government guarantee immediately upon receipt of job order / purchase order.
8. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids or to accept such bids which may be considered most advantageous to the government and to annul bidding process and reject all bids anytime prior to award or contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected bidder(s) of the grounds for DOH's action.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA M. VILLAREAL, MD, MPH**
Chief, Local Health Assistance Division
Chairperson, RBAC

(PDI - April 16 & 17, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region IV, Batangas City

NOTICE OF SALE THROUGH MARKET DETERMINED PRICING SMDP BULLETIN NO. -2004-D-01

As authorized per AO-2K4-D-009, The National Food Authority Region IV wishes to invite all NFA licensed grains businessmen to participate in the Sale through Market Determined Pricing (SMDP) of the following stocks:

PROVINCE	VARIETY	Volume (50 kg bags)	Indicative Price P/kg	Indicative Price P/50kg bag
Laguna	TGER 25%	28,200	P15.00	P750.00
Quezon	TGER 25%	17,400	P15.00	P750.00
	TOTAL	45,600		

For big retailers and licensed grains businessmen, sale shall be for the whole lot, "as is where is" no selection basis. However, for small/medium retailers, the volume that they can bid shall be limited to their declared capitalization. Offerors shall be required to post a Bid Bond in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's check payable to NFA according to the following schedule:

1. Bid Retailers/Grains Businessmen - 10% of the value of the total volume bidded
2. Small and Medium Retailers - 5% of the value of the total volume bidded

The SMDP will be conducted at NFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA Regional Office at Balagtas, Batangas City on the following schedules:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Invitation to Offer and Tender Forms	April 16-20, 2004	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
2. Pre SMDP Conference	April21, 2004	10:00 AM
3. SMDP Proper	April 21, 2004	2:00 PM

In case of SMDP failure or if some stocks will not be sold, another SMDP shall be conducted on **April 28, 2004** and every Wednesday thereafter at the same time and venue until all the stocks are sold.

The SMDP Requirements, Terms and Conditions, and Tender Forms can be secured at the NFA Regional Office Balagtas, Batangas City. For further inquiries, please contact the SMDP Committee Chairman Ruben S. Rimando at telephone Nos. (043) 723-3325 and 723-2186.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR INFORMALITIES FOUND THEREIN AND ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH IN ITS JUDGMENT ARE MOST REASONABLE AND ADVANTAGEOUS TO NFA. THE DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE AS CONFIRMED BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR SHALL BE DEEMED FINAL.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN S. RIMANDO**
Asst. Regional Director & SMDP Chairman

(PDI - April 16, 17 & 18, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 90, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF; PETITION FOR
APPROVAL OF REHABILITATION
PLAN AND THE APPOINTMENT OF
A REHABILITATION RECEIVER
S.P. PROC. NO. Q-03-064
JAPRL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
and RAPID FORMING CORPORATION,
Petitioners.
x---x

ORDER

In the interest of justice, set the Rehabilitation Receiver's evaluation report dated March 2, 2004 for hearing on April 27, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. and May 3, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.

Serve copies of this Order upon the Rehabilitation Receiver Mr. Leandro D. Javier: petitioners; and all counsels and/or all other interested parties.

The petitioners/Rehabilitation Receiver are ordered to cause the publication of this Order in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and The Philippine Star on April 17, 2004 (Saturday) in the business section of said newspapers.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, March 19, 2004.

(Sgd.) REYNALDO B. DAWAY
Presiding Judge

(PDI--April 17, 2004)

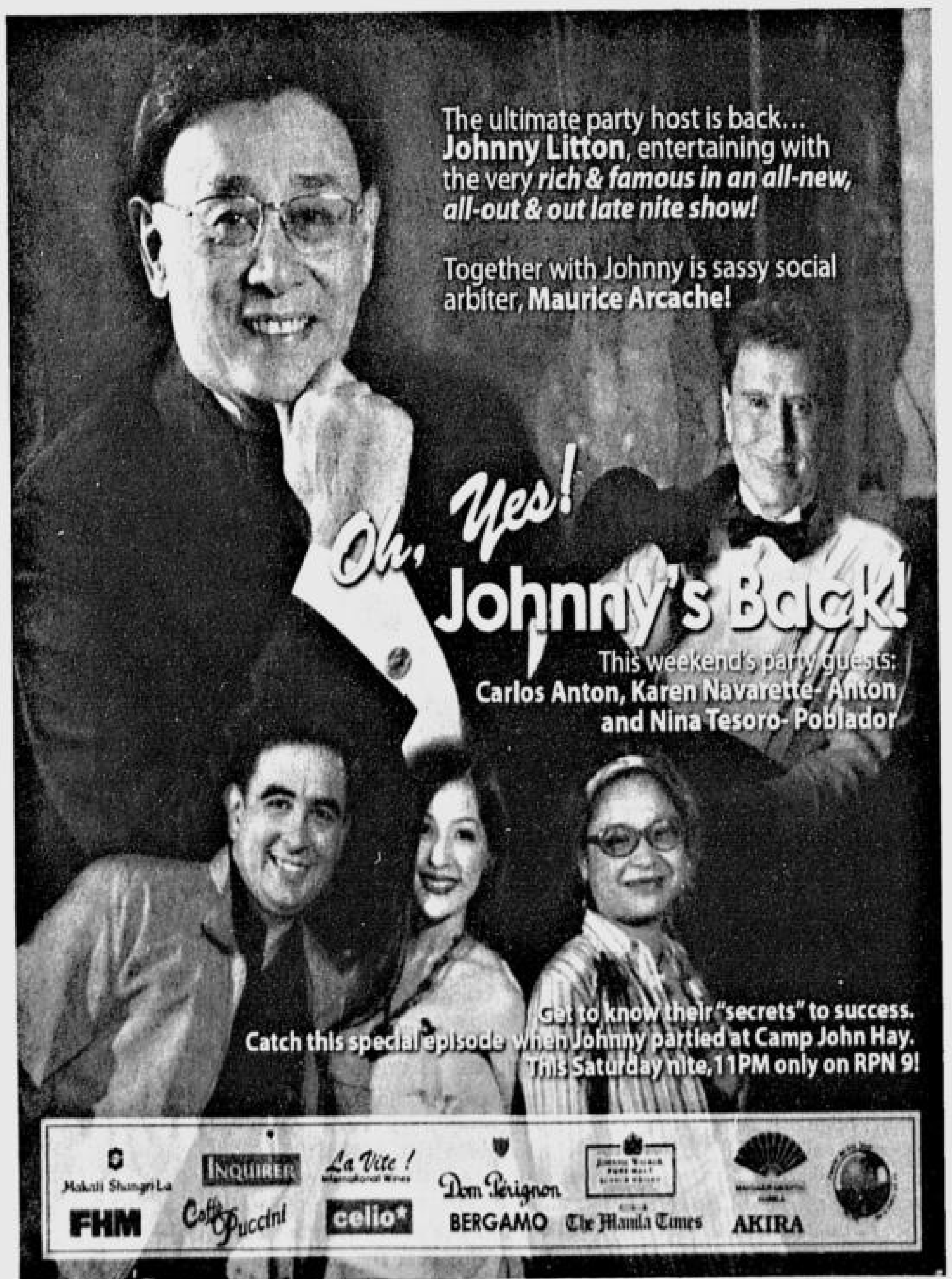
FOR SALE:

**MARBLE CHIPS
BACK-FILLING MATERIALS
(500-1,000 TRUCKLOAD)**

We will sell it very cheap if you have a backhoe, only Php500.00/Truckload

If interested, please call
(044) 840-8483 or (044) 8406427
Monday – Friday, and look for
Amio or Totong.

More Classifieds on page B4


The ultimate party host is back... Johnny Litton, entertaining with the very rich & famous in an all-new, all-out & out late nite show!
Together with Johnny is sassy social arbiter, Maurice Arcache!
Oh, Yes! Johnny's Back!
This weekend's party guests: Carlos Anton, Karen Navarette-Anton and Nina Tesoro-Poblador
Get to know their "secrets" to success. Catch this special episode when Johnny partied at Camp John Hay. This Saturday nite, 11PM only on RPN 9!
Makati Shangri-La
INQUIRER
La Vite!
Dom Pérignon
FHM
Caffè Puccini
celio*
BERGAMO
The Manila Times
AKIRA

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. 2004-012

PD Ref No. PB040218-RM0032 / PR No., ITASD-03-004232

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TransCo), BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE (BAC) FOR HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders / contractors to apply for eligibility who are
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   b. Partnership duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   d. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA)

   The abovementioned contractors should have the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB.

   License : at least "Category D"
   Registration : at least "SMALL B"
2. Contract : **SUPPLY OF LABOR, TOOLS, MATERIALS AND OTHER INCIDENTALS NECESSARY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF WORKSHOP ROOM AT TRANSCO BUILDING NO. 2.**
3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all labor, materials, supplies, tools, equipment and other incidentals necessary for the REHABILITATION OF WORKSHOP ROOM AT TRANSCO BUILDING NO. 2. Please refer to the attached Scope of Work and specification. The budget for the Contract to be Bid is *P805,602.00* from the Internal Cash Generation of the TransCo.
4. Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting April 17, 2004 to April 30, 2004 at The BAC Secretariat, National Transmission Corporation, MMD, G/F Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon presentation of original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of **TWO HUNDRED Pesos (P 200.00)** per copy.
5. Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent, duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before *3:00 PM of May 3, 2004* and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the said date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Eligible bidders shall be notified on or before May 10, 2004
6. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by eligible bidders from May 11, 2004 to May 25, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **THREE HUNDRED Pesos (Php300.00)**
7. Pre-Bid Conference for the submission of Technical and Price Proposals will be held on May 19, 2004, 2:00 PM at National Transmission Corporation, Admin Conference Room, G/F, Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
8. Submission of Technical and Price Proposals of eligible bidders shall be at 10:00 AM on May 31, 2004 at National Transmission Corp., Admin Conference Room, G/F, Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. The technical proposal will be opened immediately in the presence of Bidder's representative who chooses to attend.
9. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Act.
10. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
11. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **A.G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - April 17 & 23, 2004)

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.
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Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

ALAN SAN LUIS FERRERA

Of San Antonio Village, Makati City

peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 42
on April 12, 2004

His loving parents **Colonel & Mrs. Wenceslao A. Ferrera**, his brother **Albert**, sisters & brothers-in-law, **Me-Ann Ferrera, Taba & Kiko Villaruel, Atoy & Apollo Llagas, Owa & Marc de Guzman**, his wife **Estrella** and children **Nina, Myka, Ana and Chris**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

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Olimpia "Impiang" Reyes Santiago

of Marikina City

Former Principal of Marikina Elementary School

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 15th of April 2004 at the age of 97.

Her children: **Pit Santiago, Corazon Santos, Norma Victorino, and Nydia Canceran**; children-in-law; **Edna Santiago, Josefino Santos, Mario Victorino, and Froc Conceran**; siblings: **Remedios and Herman**; Grandchildren: **Niel, Arlo, Arlyn, Ivy, Pitt, Edrick, Glen, Ann, Neil, Alvin, Allen, and Ma. Nerissa**; grandchildren-in-law: **Lee, Ivory, and Anna**; Great-grandchildren: **Kate and Kissy**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

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CLASSIFIEDS

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Reinsurance of NAPOCOR Minor Policies)

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Motor Vehicle Fleet Insurance	P 8 073 500 00	2400 HRS 01 June 2004 to 2400 HRS 01 June 2005
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SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

ISSUANCE OF ELIGIBILITY & BID DOCUMENTS	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF ELIGIBILITY AND BID ENVELOPES
April 19 to May 18, 2004 9 00 am-5 00 pm JBC Secretariat 7th Floor-EDPC Bldg BSP Complex Roxas Blvd Manila	April 28, 2004 2 00 pm Board Rm 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd Manila	May 19, 2004 2 00 pm Office of the Chairman Board Rm 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd Manila

Eligibility and bid documents shall be issued to applicants upon filing a Letter of Intent to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and payment of a non-refundable fee of US$200 00 for each policy applied for to the National Power Corporation however for the P&I Cover bidders who participated in the 1st Bidding shall be exempt from payment of the Bid Fee

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The JBC and EEG reserve the right to reject any and all bids or Letters of Intent waive any defect therein and accept the offer that they deem most advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) Atty. PORFIRIO B. VILLENA, JR.
Director IV PDMSG
Presiding Officer Evaluation and Eligibility Group
DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee

Inquirer-April 4 1 17 2004

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
WESTERN VISAYAS
Mandurriao, Iloilo City
Telefax # (033) 3210312 / 3211036
E-mail: dohrto6@philwebinc.com

SIGLA

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Health – Center for Health Development – Western Visayas Mandurriao Iloilo City is inviting duly DOH Accredited Suppliers to participate in the **PUBLIC BIDDING FOR DRUGS, MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND LABOR & CATERING/BOARD AND LODGING**

Instructions Terms and Conditions

- A complete set of bid tender documents can be secured from RBAC-Drugs & Meds Secretariat DOH CHD – WV Mandurriao, Iloilo City beginning March 29, 2004 after having been accredited Bid quotations shall be duly signed by the supplier / contractor / caterer on every page of the bid tender
- Public bidding will be conducted on the following dates at 9 00 AM

April 15, 2004	Construction materials and labor
April 16, 2004	Catering Board and Lodging
April 19, 2004	Drugs and Medicines

- A re bidding will be conducted on the following dates

April 21, 2004	Construction Materials and Labor (9 00 AM
	Catering Board and Lodging (2 00 PM)

4. Bids shall be accompanied by a 1% Bidder's Bond of the approved budget cost for the items services to be bid in the form of cash certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit, one and a half percent (1 ½%) in the form of bank guarantee two and a half percent (2 ½%) in the form of surety bond, and one hundred percent (100%) in the form of foreign government guarantee
5. The BAC reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award and to reject any or all bids which may be considered most advantageous to the government
6. Bidders are invited to be present at the time and place stated above where the bids will be opened
7. The winning bidder shall post a Performance Bond equivalent to 5% of the Approved contract price in the form of cash manager's check, certified check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit, ten percent (10%) in the form of bank guarantee thirty percent (30%) in the form of surety bond and one hundred percent (100%) in the form of foreign government guarantee immediately upon receipt of job order purchase order.
8. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids or to accept such bids which may be considered most advantageous to the government and to annul bidding process and reject all bids anytime prior to award or contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected bidder(s) of the grounds for DOH's action.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA M. VILLAREAL, MD, MPH
Chief, Local Health Assistance Division
Chairperson, RBAC

(PDI - April 16 & 17, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region IV, Batangas City

NOTICE OF SALE THROUGH MARKET DETERMINED PRICING SMDP BULLETIN NO. -2004-D-01

As authorized per AO-2K4-D-009 The National Food Authority Region IV wishes to invite all NFA licensed grains businessmen to participate in the Sale through Market Determined Pricing (SMDP) of the following stocks

PROVINCE	VARIETY	Volume (50 kg bags)	Indicative Price P/kg	Indicative Price P/50kg bag
Laguna	TGER 25%	28,200	P15.00	P750.00
Quezon	TGER 25%	17,400	P15.00	P750.00
	TOTAL	45,600		

For big retailers and licensed grains businessmen, sale shall be for the whole lot as is where is" no selection basis. However, for small medium retailers, the volume that they can bid shall be limited to their declared capitalization. Offerors shall be required to post a Bid Bond in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's check payable to NFA according to the following schedule:

1. Bid Retailers/Grains Businessmen - 10% of the value of the total volume bidded
2. Small and Medium Retailers - 5% of the value of the total volume bidded

The SMDP will be conducted at NFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA Regional Office at Balagtas Batangas City on the following schedules

	ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
1	Issuance of Invitation to Offer and Tender Forms	April 16-20, 2004	8 00 AM - 5 00 PM
2	Pre SMDP Conference	April21, 2004	10 00 AM
3.	SMDP Proper	April 21, 2004	2 00 PM

In case of SMDP failure or if some stocks will not be sold another SMDP shall be conducted on April 28, 2004 and every Wednesday thereafter at the same time and venue until all the stocks are sold

The SMDP Requirements, Terms and Conditions, and Tender Forms can be secured at the NFA Regional Office Balagtas, Batangas City For further inquiries please contact the SMDP Committee Chairman Ruben S Rimando at telephone Nos (043) 723-3325 and 723-2186

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR INFORMALITIES FOUND THEREIN AND ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH IN ITS JUDGMENT ARE MOST REASONABLE AND ADVANTAGEOUS TO NFA THE DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE AS CONFIRMED BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR SHALL BE DEEMED FINAL

(Sgd) RUBEN S. RIMANDO
Asst. Regional Director & SMDP Chairman

PDI - April 16, 17 & 18 2004

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 90, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF: PETITION FOR
APPROVAL OF REHABILITATION
PLAN AND THE APPOINTMENT OF
A REHABILITATION RECEIVER
S P PROC NO. Q-03-064
JAPRL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
and RAPID FORMING CORPORATION,
Petitioners.
x---x

ORDER

In the interest of justice, set the Rehabilitation Receiver's evaluation report dated March 2, 2004 for hearing on April 27, 2004 at 2.00 p.m. and May 3, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.

Serve copies of this Order upon the Rehabilitation Receiver Mr Leandro D. Javier; petitioners; and all counsels and/or all other interested parties

The petitioners/Rehabilitation Receiver are ordered to cause the publication of this Order in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and The Philippine Star on April 17, 2004 (Saturday) in the business section of said newspapers

SO ORDERED
Quezon City, March 19, 2004

(Sgd) REYNALDO B DAWAY
Presiding Judge

PDI April 17 2004

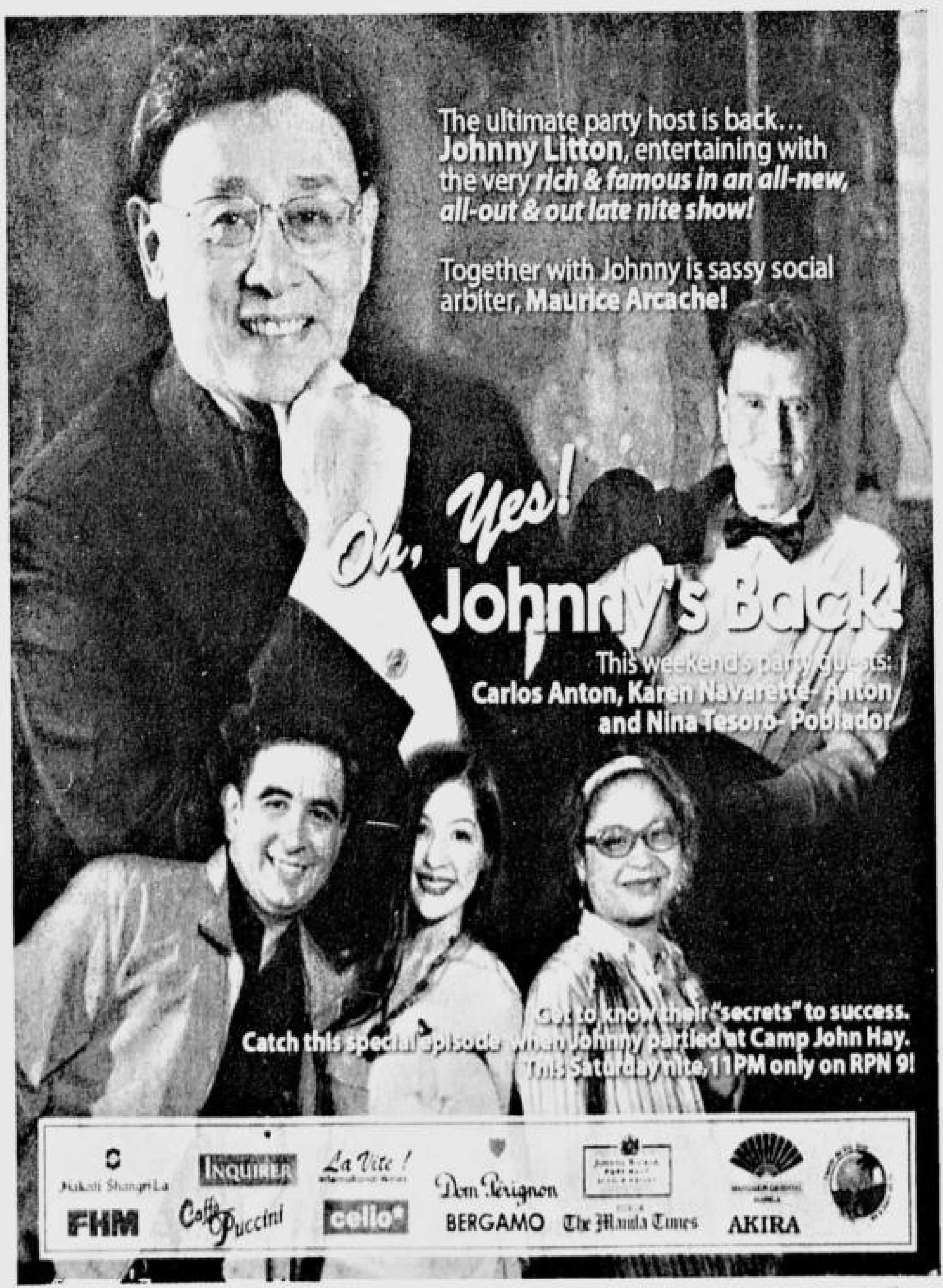
FOR SALE:

MARBLE CHIPS
BACK-FILLING MATERIALS
(500-1,000 TRUCKLOAD)

We will sell it very cheap if you have a backhoe, only Php500.00/Truckload

If Interested, please call
(044) 840-8483 or (044) 8406427
Monday – Friday, and look for
Amio or Totong.

More Classifieds on page B4


The ultimate party host is back...
Johnny Litton, entertaining with the very rich & famous in an all-new, all-out & out late nite show!
Together with Johnny is sassy social arbiter, Maurice Arcache!
Oh, Yes! Johnny's Back!
This weekend's party guests:
Carlos Anton, Karen Navarette-Anton and Nina Tesoro-Poblador
Get to know their "secrets" to success.
Catch this special episode when Johnny partied at Camp John Hay.
This Saturday nite, 11PM only on RPN 9!
Makati Shangri-La
INQUIRER
La Vite!
Dom Pérignon
FHM
Caffe Puccini
cello
BERGAMO
The Manila Times
AKIRA

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. 2004-012

PD Ref No. PB040218-RM0032 PR No. ASD-03-00423

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TransCo), BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE (BAC) FOR HEAD OFFICE invites local bidders contractors to apply for eligibility who are

a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens sole proprietorships or
b. Partnership duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines
Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least seventy five percent (75% of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines
Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA

The abovementioned contractors should have the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB

License	at least "Category D
Registration	at least "SMALL B"

Contract SUPPLY OF LABOR, TOOLS, MATERIALS AND OTHER INCIDENTALS NECESSARY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF WORKSHOP ROOM AT TRANSCO BUILDING NO. 2.

The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all labor materials supplies tools equipment and other incidentals necessary for the REHABILITATION OF WORKSHOP ROOM AT TRANSCO BUILDING NO. 2. Please refer to the attached Scope of Work and specification

The budget for the Contract to be Bid is *P905,602.00* from the Internal Cash Generation of the TransC

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting April 17, 2004 to April 30, 2004 at The BAC Secretariat, National Transmission Corporation, MMD G F Main Building Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road Diliman Quezon City upon presentation of original PCAB [illegible] and a payment of non-refundable fee of TWO HUNDRED Pesos (P 200.00) per copy

Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent duly accomplished Application for Eligibility Eligibility Forms documents and statements shall be on or before *3:00 PM of May 3, 2004* and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the said date is a non-working day or declared non-working day the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Eligible bidders shall be notified on or before May 10, 2004

6 A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by eligible bidders from May 11, 2004 to May 25, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE HUNDRED Pesos (Php300 00)

The Bid Conference for the submission of Technical and Price Proposals will be held May 19, 2004, 2.00 PM at National Transmission Corporation Admin Conference Room G F Main Building Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road Diliman Quezon City

8 Submission of Technical and Price Proposals of eligible bidders shall be at 10:00 AM on May 31, 2004 at National Transmission Corp Admin Conference Room G F Main Building Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road Diliman Quezon City The technical proposal will be opened [illegible] in the presence of Bidder's representative who chooses to attend

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R A 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Act

10 TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering a reasons waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government

Additional information shall be furnished upon request All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address

(Sgd) A.G LABAYANI
Chairman Bids and Award Committee

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

PROSTATE DISORDERS

Detection key to successful treatment

By Charles E. Buban

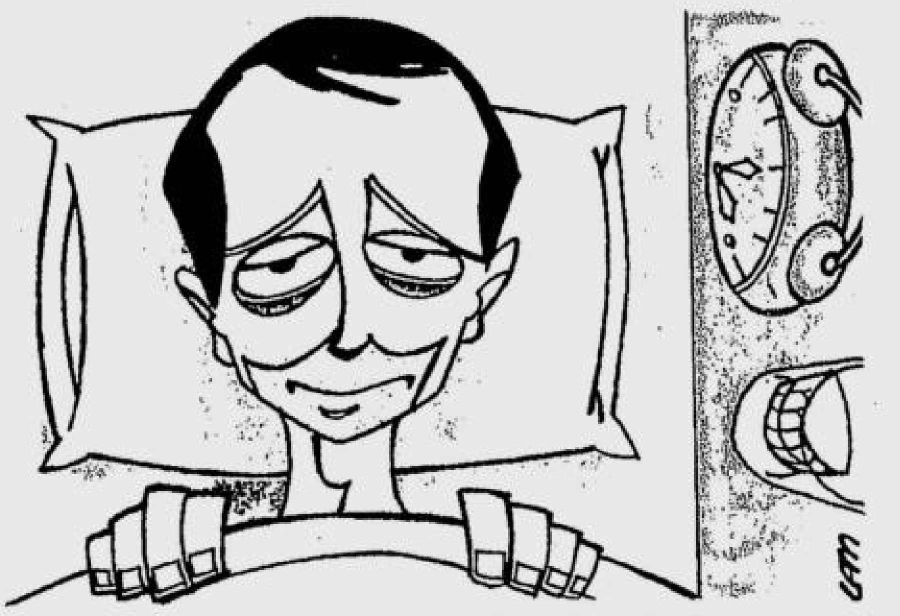
A PROSTATE problem is enough to give any man sleepless nights—after all, the symptoms of having one are not something to be ignored as they can be very persistent and bothersome.

According to Dr. Danilo Mariano, a urologist at the Dr. Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center, symptoms are most likely to occur upon reaching the age of 40, and especially after age 60 when the need to go to the restroom becomes significantly more frequent and urination takes longer than usual either because there is trouble starting urination or the urinary stream is weak or faltering.

Some of these symptoms may be due to problems such as benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH, or the enlargement of the prostate) and prostatitis (inflammation of the prostate). They are, however, not life threatening.

The much more serious problem is prostate cancer.

"Prostate cancer is not always accompanied by symptoms, especially in its early stages. However, as the tumor grows, it may spread from the prostate to surrounding areas. Change in urination, including increased frequency, hesitancy or dribbling of urine may be experienced, and these are also symptoms of BPH or prostatitis," says Mariano.



200,000 deaths annually

Prostate cancer strikes about 21 in every 100,000 men worldwide (17.6 out of every 100,000 in the Philippines), according to the World Health Organization.

It kills more than 200,000 men annually worldwide, making prostate cancer the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among men in the world, after lung cancer (third in the Philippines after lung and liver cancer).

Prostate cancer starts in the walnut-sized prostate gland, located just below the bladder and in front of the rectum. The gland is responsible for producing the fluids that are contained in semen.

Mariano said prostate cells sometimes undergo unregulated growth and become cancerous due to testosterone.

These cancer cells can metastasize or spread from the prostate to nearby lymph nodes, bones or other organs.

"This is what we urologists would like to prevent, so early detection of a developing prostate problem is crucial. The treatment may delay or prevent tumor enlargement, metastasis (spread), and even death," says Mariano.

Prostate cancer screening

How early should one have his prostate examined?

"Prostate cancer is rarely found in men younger than 40 years of age. The incidence of prostate cancer gradually rises as men get older, so that's the time when one should see a urologist," suggests Mariano.

There are a number of tests used to screen for prostate cancer. The two tests most commonly used are the digital rectal examination (DRE), in which a urologist inserts a gloved finger into the rectum to feel for nodules or firmness in the prostate, and a blood test for prostate specific antigen (PSA).

"An elevated level of PSA in the blood may be an indication of prostate cancer or other disorders of the prostate like BPH," said Mariano.

The DRE, on the other hand, may help determine if a biopsy is required, and this procedure may complement the information from the PSA test.

Abnormal results

If either or both of these tests are abnormal, the urologist will sometimes recommend a transrectal ultrasound (TRUS) and needle biopsy of the prostate.

"The purpose of a biopsy is to extract samples from the body for study under a microscope. The ultrasound is a procedure that uses high frequency sound waves to take a 'picture' of various parts of the body, in this case, the prostate," explains Mariano.

A TRUS is not generally used as a diagnostic tool, but it may help direct the biopsy to abnormal areas of the prostate. Once the prostate can be seen, needles for the biopsy can be directed toward the prostate to obtain samples for analysis.

Although some patients can't tolerate the procedure due to discomfort, the procedure may help determine if cancer is present and help to define the extent of cancer.

Treating prostate problems

There are several ways of treating an enlarged prostate if it's causing urine problems and to prevent it from developing complications.

One approach is through the use of drugs.

These drugs may fall into two classes: the alpha blockers, which help relax the muscle tissue in the prostate, thus relieving part of the blockage, and the 5-alpha reductase inhibitors, which shrink the enlarged prostate by blocking the effect of testosterone.

Currently the most widely accepted method of treating an enlarged prostate, especially when symptoms are severe, is surgery.

The operation, says Mariano, usually takes an hour and is done to remove some of the enlarged tissue to relieve the symptoms.

A prostate removal, or prostatectomy, is usually done only to stop prostate cancer from spreading.

Apart from removing the prostate gland (and sometimes nearby lymph nodes in the pelvis) other options for treating prostate cancer includes radiation therapy to kill cancer cells.

Reminds Mariano: "If the patient exhibits any problems after treatment for a prostate condition, they should talk with their doctor so that appropriate action can be done."

Colorful celebrations to mark Earth Day

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

EARTH DAY approaches (April 22). And nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and government agencies are preparing colorful and symbolic ceremonies to mark the event at the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

"The objective is consciousness-raising, to make a dent on the consciousness of the nation for reverence for life and respect for nature," says Odette Alcantara of Mother Earth Philippines.

"The theme is 'Let the Healing Begin,'" adds Billy Bonnevie of the Pinikpikan band, another organizer. "This is a national movement for earth rehabilitation to be officially launched by Jovito Salonga," the elder statesman and former senator.

If there is a State of the Nation Address (Sona), there is also a True State of the Philippine Environment (Tsope).

"Every credible Sona should include a Tsope," notes Alcantara. And on April 22, the Tsope will be delivered by leading environmentalist and Unesco Commissioner Narda Camacho.

There will be responses from the different sectors: government (Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun); church (Fr. Peter Walpole, SJ, who documented the deteriorating state of Philippine forests); business (Howard Belton, chair of Unilever Philippines); civil society (Sixto K. Roxas); art and culture (Jaime C. Laya); media (Ceres Doyo of the INQUIRER); the *katutubo* or indigenous peoples (Sagada Mayor Tom Kilip); and the international community (a spokesperson from the diplomatic corps).

Meaningful entertainment will be provided by the Pinikpikan Band, Makiling Ensemble of Diwa de Leon, Kontra Gapi of Edru Abraham, Earth Rhythm, UP Cherubims & Seraphims, and folk singer-songwriter Joey Ayala. There will be an invocation by a Catholic priest, a *babaylan* (high priestess) and an imam (Muslim cleric).

A totem-type art installation by sculptress Agnes Arellano will represent the various elements, with focus on the element of water. "This is because of the water crisis," says Bonnevie. "Water is an international focus."

The stage will be awash with greenery in the form of 2,004 seedlings and anthuriums which will later be offered to the environment, and planted elsewhere.

The symbols are inspired by the Catholic Mass, with Wigberto Tañada Jr. as the "principal acolyte." There will be some kind of communion with loaves of bread and fishes, fish balls (round, like the globe), and fresh fruits and clean water to help rehabilitate the earth.

Dancing, according to Bonnevie, will denote "movement as an indicator of life, the earth moving, coming together to synchronize with the worldwide movement involving 104 countries."

And there will be Earth Day greetings to spice up the celebrations. "Hallmark has greeting cards for every occasion except Earth Day," says Alcantara. "So we will come up with our own greetings."

Call to harm?

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

EARLIER this week, a Nokia 3310 exploded in a bank in Hong Kong. Last year, at least two cell phones exploded in the Netherlands. One "CSI" episode featured a man who died because he answered his cell phone while refilling his car's gas tank. Some gas stations now have signs asking customers to turn off their cell phones while they fill up.

In recent years there have been suggestions that constant cell phone use affects the human body more subtly than an explosion, yet studies have shown that the radiation levels given off by cell phones are too low to burn tissues or cause cancer.

Then last February, the Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics journal published a paper by physicist Bo Sernelius from Linköping University in Sweden suggesting that cell phone radiation doesn't burn the human body, it increases the attractive forces between red blood cells.

Comparative study

Sernelius compared the attractive forces between two water drops under normal conditions and when exposed to the kind of radiation that comes from cell phones and the attractive forces between two red blood cells. (In his study, Sernelius used the radiation emanating from a cell phone in the 850 megahertz frequency.)

There were, however, several problems with such a comparative study. Sernelius lacked a number of important information to perform the calculations necessary to measure the attractive forces between red blood cells.

So, he made guesses.

He assumed, for example, that a red blood cell is a perfect sphere with a certain size (they look more like Frisbees), and adjusted the water and ion contents of a sample cell to be able to come up with values that "seem reasonable."

He found that the attractive forces between the red blood cells increased significantly when radiation in the microwave (the electromagnetic waves for which the household appliance is named) region—at which level the radiation from the cell phone is strongest—was applied. This would cause the red blood cells to cluster more closely together and would possibly cause small blood vessels to contract and limit the blood flow into some parts of the body.

Take his findings with a grain of salt, as Sernelius himself says in his paper's conclusion. "A word of caution: the present work should not be considered as proof that cellular phones are harmful. It shows there may be effects not considered before. The weakness of the model calculations lies in the incomplete input data."

14 studies, 13 countries

Understanding the long-term effects of constant cell phone use on human health is the goal of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which has funded 14 separate studies in 13 nations.

Earlier this year the American Journal of Epidemiology published the first of these studies, which was conducted by Helle Christensen and her colleagues at the Institute of Cancer Epidemiology in Copenhagen, Denmark.

To find out if cell phone radiation increased a person's chances of developing cancer, researchers looked at every instance that a Danish person was diagnosed with a brain tumor called acoustic neuroma over a two-year period (106 patients out of 5.3 million people).

Because the tumor forms between the brain and the inner ear, Christensen told The New Scientist magazine, "it's located right where the radiation is most intense. If mobile phones are in some way able to influence tumor tissue, it should be able to influence acoustic neuromas."

Unfortunately, said Christensen's colleague and co-author Christoffer Johansen, the relationship is unclear because not enough of the patients had been using cell phones for 10 years, and those that did, used it far less often than they do now.

A relationship between tumor location and which ear the cell phone is most often held against was also not established.

The study's conclusion? Cell phones do not cause cancer during the first 10 years of use. The other 13 studies are expected to see print in the next year-and-a-half, but it looks like we'll have to wait a bit longer, maybe another 10-20 years, to find out how prolonged cell phone use affects people.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com

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What is OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA (OSA)?

Obstructive Sleep Apnea is when a person stops breathing during sleep because his or her airway collapses and prevents air from getting in the lungs.

SYMPTOMS

There are some easy-to-identify signs and symptoms associated with OSA.

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- *Has anyone told you that you stop breathing during sleep?*
- *Do you feel tired or fatigued after you sleep?*
- *Has your weight changed in the last 5 years?*
- *Have you ever nodded off or fallen asleep while driving a vehicle?*

If you answered yes to two or more of these questions, *you may suffer from* OSA.

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(033) 337-2741 to 49 loc 2071

"The first in Western Visayas"

Keeping Asian men healthy

By Cesar D. Mangawang

FOUR medical practitioners took turns in stressing that Asian men should be concerned about their health.

This is considered as a better way to introduce a medical journal to the media during the 4th Asian and Oceanic Congress of Andrology at the Shangri-La Rasa Sayang Resort in Penang, Malaysia. Launched was the March 2004 issue of MH—Men's Health and the Aging Male: Medical Perspectives for Asia Pacific—the first-ever medical journal to focus on issues that threaten life expectancy and quality of life in the region.

The four experts were doctors Hui Meng Tan, Denis Cherry, Rafael Castillo and Chris McMahon.

Men's health issues

Dr. Tan, the journal's editor in chief and consultant urologist at the Subang Jaya Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, said they felt a need to offer a resource for physicians that seriously takes men's health issues compared to consumer-oriented magazines that tend to feature more superficial topics. Men's health, he said, should be elevated to the level of women's health, where women receive regular, standard health checks that allow them to detect early warning signs for serious female health conditions.

Dr. Tan led a study in Malaysia showing that 62 percent of men aged 50 and above had not had a medical checkup in the last year, compared with only 18 percent of Western men in a multicountry study conducted last year. It was also found out that men had a much higher incidence of illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension and prostate problems than they actually reported to their doctors.

Most crucial age range

Said Dr. Cherry of Perth Human Sexuality Center: "Asia has the deep-rooted, ancient beliefs which affect the way men live their lives. We need to utilize Asia's great health traditions and factor them into how we assess men's health, so as to know what to look for at the different stages of their lives."

According to him, the most crucial age range for men in Asia is between 45 and 60 when many metabolic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol start to develop can can ultimately cause irreversible organ damage. These diseases, he said, can cause other health problems like depression and loss of sexual appetite.

Dr. Castillo allayed the fear that sexual activity might trigger another heart attack. He underscored the need for those who suffer a heart attack to recuperate first and be physically fit before engaging in sex again.

Studies show that once a patient recovers from a heart attack, sexual activities can be safely resumed. Sexual activity is not considered strenuous than climbing a flight of stairs or a vigorous walk.

Reluctance

Dr. McMahon said a lot of men are reluctant to openly discuss their sexual problems with their doctors and choose to suffer in silence. Many doctors fail to include specific queries about sexual function in general medical history taking, he added.

By using the techniques of "generalizing" and "normalizing," questions about sexuality are best formulated. Open questions that begin with "who," "what," "when," "where" and "why" are designed to allow patients to explore their sexual concerns.

The four speakers are also included in the 9-man editorial board of MH. Dr. K. K. Chen and professors B. Tomlinson, S.C. Kim, W-Y Low and K. H. Yoon complete the editorial board.

Raising awareness

The new journal's editorial board will urge doctors in Asia Pacific to mix the traditional eastern holistic approach to medicine with the latest diagnostic and treatment advances in the west to help lessen serious health woes that currently afflict men throughout the region.

MH is a peer-review, monthly medical journal that intends to raise awareness of men's health and help advance its management all over the region.

Obesity is no joke

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

ONE who's 10 to 20 pounds overweight may look and feel okay. Make that 20 to 30 pounds in excess of one's ideal body weight, and the individual may still look hale and hearty. Many obese individuals do not realize the serious risk factor they could have.

Obesity is now regarded as a leading risk factor that could lead to more serious medical problems such as diabetes, cholesterol problems, high blood pressure and a long list of serious complications including some types of cancers.

We tease our overweight friends and relatives as if obesity is not a serious condition that deserves serious concern. The levity, however, dissipates when the obese person gets confined in the hospital for a heart attack, stroke, cancer, disabling arthritis or a chronic lung problem.

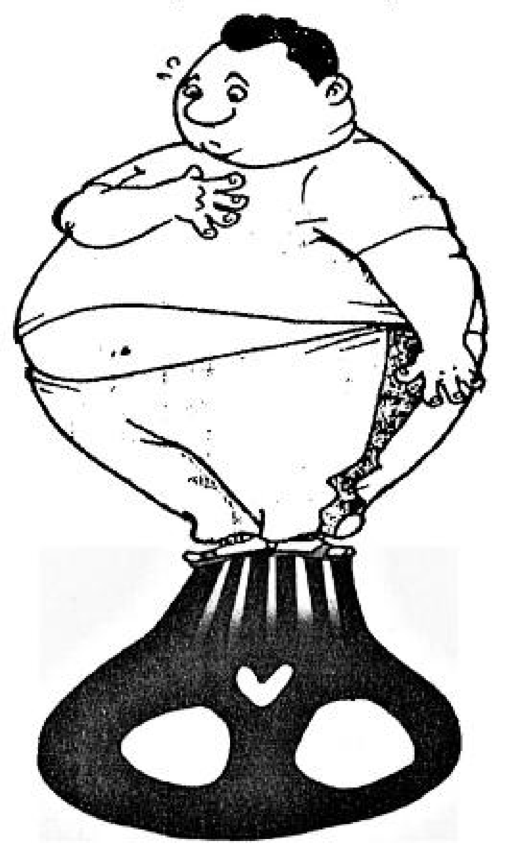
Obesity by itself does not maim or kill, but it's usually associated with other killer risk factors and they usually cluster together into one deadly entity, which is known as Syndrome X.

Redefining obesity

Health experts in the Asia-Pacific region have redefined their definition of obesity in terms of body mass index (BMI) based on one's height and weight. If your BMI is between 23 and 25, it's time to watch out and get back to your diet and exercise while you're still ahead. If it's more than 25, you might be courting serious trouble if you don't shave off those unwanted adipose through a healthy lifestyle regimen.

If you don't know your BMI, just measure your abdominal circumference, or your waistline, for a quick test. If it's more than 36 inches, chances are your BMI is beyond the normal range.

It is unfortunate that many of our schoolchildren are overweight, if not pathologically obese. And it is because of unhealthy eating habits which parents unwittingly allow their children to develop. The diet one grows up with is likely the diet one will prefer as an adult.



Most adults know that high-fat food, although admittedly tastier, more succulent and satisfying than high fiber, low-fat food, is the best "anti-aging diet" since one may not reach a ripe old age with such kind of diet. The likelihood of a stroke, heart attack and even cancer is much higher. Yet most adults cannot resist a deep-fried crispy *pata*, a mouth-watering *lechon de leche* and really tasty Peking duck skin. The typical adult is likely to pick any of these over a dish of steamed spinach or broccoli.

Stubborn patients

It simply boils down to the eating habits one grows up with. This is probably why many dieticians are giving up on stubborn patients, including those who already suffered a life-threatening stroke or heart attack. Initially, their close brush with death may make patients very compliant with a healthy diet, but after several months when their conditions stabilize, a good number of them are back to their old lifestyle, and their taste buds persuasively convince their brain centers that a satisfying, delicious fatty meal can't be that bad.

Until the next stroke cuts one down to a vegetative existence, and his taste buds no longer need to function since all foods will have to be osterized and given through a plastic tube inserted through one's nose all the way to the stomach.

Dietary instructions have to be reinforced at home. Health instructions in school would be meaningless if the child goes home and has pork chop and *pata tim* for dinner.

Many have the mistaken notion that children are immune to atherosclerosis, or the narrowing of the arteries. The truth is that the deadly atherosclerotic process starts during childhood, and it is ironic that parents unwittingly allow the fast-tracking of this process in their children by allowing them to eat fast-food junk.

Fat blockers

We still push for a healthy diet-and-exercise regimen as the mainstay in preventing and treating obesity. However, as an adjunct to help many adults lose weight, there are safe fat blockers available in the market such as orlistat, popularly known as Xenical.

I must admit I had some doubts about this drug when it was initially introduced, but now there is a preponderance of scientific evidence published in reputable journals showing its efficacy and safety particularly in Syndrome X.

What convinced many health experts is the result of the landmark Xendos (Xenical in the prevention of diabetes in obese subjects) trial showing remarkable benefits in preventing diabetes and improving overall cardiovascular risk.

With or without Xenical though, don't ever give up your running shoes.

Ateneo Grade School Math Olympiad

(First of two parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST March 20, at the second Ateneo Mathematics Olympiad (AMO), selected 5th, 6th and 7th graders participated in a rigorous problem-solving fest. A brainchild of president Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ, the AMO aims to hone the necessary skills, attitudes and mindset of our youth to tackle not only academic word and number problems, but hopefully, real-life issues in the future.

The AMO is different from most other such contests in the Philippines because the emphasis is not primarily on speed and memorization of isolated facts, but persevering at complicated math problems patterned after the International Math Olympiad. This means that the topics which appear in the AMO are not just arithmetic facts, but also contain proving techniques and problem-solving areas like symmetry and number theory.

In the individual round, the students try their best to solve three problems in three hours, with as complete and clear a solution as possible.

Questions

Here are the questions. Think about them for a while. Can you find a way to begin your own solutions?

Grades 5 and 6:

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KIDS QUIZ

What's in a name? (Part 2)

SCORE: 1-4 Good; 5-7 Very Good; 8-10 Excellent

THE MANGO, one of the most cultivated fruits in the world, has many names. It's called the "King of the fruits" in the Orient, "the mother of all tropical fruits," and the national fruit of India and the Philippines. It's called mangga among Tagalogs and Ilocanos, manggang-kalabaw among Tagalogs and paho among Visayans. Still, like all other fruits, it has one scientific name, *Mangifera indica*. Check your knowledge of the scientific names of Philippine fruits by matching their common name with their scientific name.

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1. Sugar apple or sweet sop (*atis*)
2. Guava (*bayabas*)
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e) *Carica papaya*
f) *Syzygium cumini (L.)* Skeels
g) *Psidium guajava L.*
h) *Pterocarpus indicus*
i) *Carica papaya*
j) *Citrus microcarpa Bunge*
k) *Chrysophyllum cainito L.*

ANSWERS: 1-c, 2-g, 3-j, 4-b, 5-d, 6-i, 7-a, 8-k, 9-f, 10-e

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Keeping Asian men healthy

By Cesar D. Mangawang

FOUR medical practitioners took turns in stressing that Asian men should be concerned about their health.

This is considered as a better way to introduce a medical journal to the media during the 4th Asian and Oceanic Congress of Andrology at the Shangri-La Rasa Sayang Resort in Penang, Malaysia. Launched was the March 2004 issue of MH—Men's Health and the Aging Male: Medical Perspectives for Asia Pacific—the first-ever medical journal to focus on issues that threaten life expectancy and quality of life in the region.

The four experts were doctors Hui Meng Tan, Denis Cherry, Rafael Castillo and Chris McMahon.

Men's health issues

Dr. Tan, the journal's editor in chief and consultant urologist at the Subang Jaya Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, said they felt a need to offer a resource for physicians that seriously takes men's health issues compared to consumer-oriented magazines that tend to feature more superficial topics. Men's health, he said, should be elevated to the level of women's health, where women receive regular, standard health checks that allow them to detect early warning signs for serious female health conditions.

Dr. Tan led a study in Malaysia showing that 62 percent of men aged 50 and above had not had a medical checkup in the last year, compared with only 18 percent of Western men in a multicountry study conducted last year. It was also found out that men had a much higher incidence of illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension and prostate problems than they actually reported to their doctors.

Most crucial age range

Said Dr. Cherry of Perth Human Sexuality Center: "Asia has the deep-rooted, ancient beliefs which affect the way men live their lives. We need to utilize Asia's great health traditions and factor them into how we assess men's health, so as to know what to look for at the different stages of their lives."

According to him, the most crucial age range for men in Asia is between 45 and 60 when many metabolic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol start to develop can can ultimately cause irreversible organ damage. These diseases, he said, can cause other health problems like depression and loss of sexual appetite.

Dr. Castillo allayed the fear that sexual activity might trigger another heart attack. He underscored the need for those who suffer a heart attack to recuperate first and be physically fit before engaging in sex again.

Studies show that once a patient recovers from a heart attack, sexual activities can be safely resumed. Sexual activity is not considered strenuous than climbing a flight of stairs or a vigorous walk.

Reluctance

Dr. McMahon said a lot of men are reluctant to openly discuss their sexual problems with their doctors and choose to suffer in silence. Many doctors fail to include specific queries about sexual function in general medical history taking, he added.

By using the techniques of "generalizing" and "normalizing," questions about sexuality are best formulated. Open questions that begin with "who," "what," "when," "where" and "why" are designed to allow patients to explore their sexual concerns.

The four speakers are also included in the 9-man editorial board of MH. Dr. K. K. Chen and professors B. Tomlinson, S.C. Kim, W-Y Low and K. H. Yoon complete the editorial board.

Raising awareness

The new journal's editorial board will urge doctors in Asia Pacific to mix the traditional eastern holistic approach to medicine with the latest diagnostic and treatment advances in the west to help lessen serious health woes that currently afflict men throughout the region.

MH is a peer-review, monthly medical journal that intends to raise awareness of men's health and help advance its management all over the region.

Obesity is no joke

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

ONE who's 10 to 20 pounds overweight may look and feel okay. Make that 20 to 30 pounds in excess of one's ideal body weight, and the individual may still look hale and hearty. Many obese individuals do not realize the serious risk factor they could have.

Obesity is now regarded as a leading risk factor that could lead to more serious medical problems such as diabetes, cholesterol problems, high blood pressure and a long list of serious complications including some types of cancers.

We tease our overweight friends and relatives as if obesity is not a serious condition that deserves serious concern. The levity, however, dissipates when the obese person gets confined in the hospital for a heart attack, stroke, cancer, disabling arthritis or a chronic lung problem.

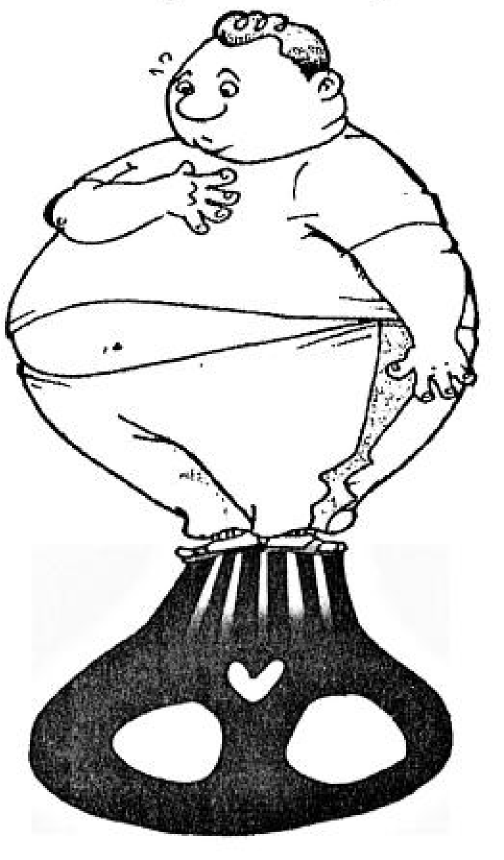
Obesity by itself does not maim or kill, but it's usually associated with other killer risk factors and they usually cluster together into one deadly entity, which is known as Syndrome X.

Redefining obesity

Health experts in the Asia-Pacific region have redefined their definition of obesity in terms of body mass index (BMI) based on one's height and weight. If your BMI is between 23 and 25, it's time to watch out and get back to your diet and exercise while you're still ahead. If it's more than 25, you might be courting serious trouble if you don't shave off those unwanted adipose through a healthy lifestyle regimen.

If you don't know your BMI, just measure your abdominal circumference, or your waistline, for a quick test. If it's more than 36 inches, chances are your BMI is beyond the normal range.

It is unfortunate that many of our schoolchildren are overweight, if not pathologically obese. And it is because of unhealthy eating habits which parents unwittingly allow their children to develop. The diet one grows up with is likely the diet one will prefer as an adult.



Most adults know that high-fat food, although admittedly tastier, more succulent and satisfying than high fiber, low-fat food, is the best "anti-aging diet" since one may not reach a ripe old age with such kind of diet. The likelihood of a stroke, heart attack and even cancer is much higher. Yet most adults cannot resist a deep-fried crispy *pata*, a mouth-watering *lechon de leche* and really tasty Peking duck skin. The typical adult is likely to pick any of these over a dish of steamed spinach or broccoli.

Stubborn patients

It simply boils down to the eating habits one grows up with. This is probably why many dieticians are giving up on stubborn patients, including those who already suffered a life-threatening stroke or heart attack. Initially, their close brush with death may make patients very compliant with a healthy diet, but after several months when their conditions stabilize, a good number of them are back to their old lifestyle, and their taste buds persuasively convince their brain centers that a satisfying, delicious fatty meal can't be that bad.

Until the next stroke cuts one down to a vegetative existence, and his taste buds no longer need to function since all foods will have to be osterized and given through a plastic tube inserted through one's nose all the way to the stomach.

Dietary instructions have to be reinforced at home. Health instructions in school would be meaningless if the child goes home and has pork chop and *pata tim* for dinner.

Many have the mistaken notion that children are immune to atherosclerosis, or the narrowing of the arteries. The truth is that the deadly atherosclerotic process starts during childhood, and it is ironic that parents unwittingly allow the fast-tracking of this process in their children by allowing them to eat fast-food junk.

Fat blockers

We still push for a healthy diet-and-exercise regimen as the mainstay in preventing and treating obesity. However, as an adjunct to help many adults lose weight, there are safe fat blockers available in the market such as orlistat, popularly known as Xenical.

I must admit I had some doubts about this drug when it was initially introduced, but now there is a preponderance of scientific evidence published in reputable journals showing its efficacy and safety particularly in Syndrome X.

What convinced many health experts is the result of the landmark Xendos (Xenical in the prevention of diabetes in obese subjects) trial showing remarkable benefits in preventing diabetes and improving overall cardiovascular risk.

With or without Xenical though, don't ever give up your running shoes.

Ateneo Grade School Math Olympiad

(First of two parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST March 20, at the second Ateneo Mathematics Olympiad (AMO), selected 5th, 6th and 7th graders participated in a rigorous problem-solving fest. A brainchild of president Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ, the AMO aims to hone the necessary skills, attitudes and mindset of our youth to tackle not only academic word and number problems, but hopefully, real-life issues in the future.

The AMO is different from most other such contests in the Philippines because the emphasis is not primarily on speed and memorization of isolated facts, but persevering at complicated math problems patterned after the International Math Olympiad. This means that the topics which appear in the AMO are not just arithmetic facts, but also contain proving techniques and problem-solving areas like symmetry and number theory.

In the individual round, the students try their best to solve three problems in three hours, with as complete and clear a solution as possible.

Questions

Here are the questions. Think about them for a while. Can you find a way to begin your own solutions?

Grades 5 and 6:

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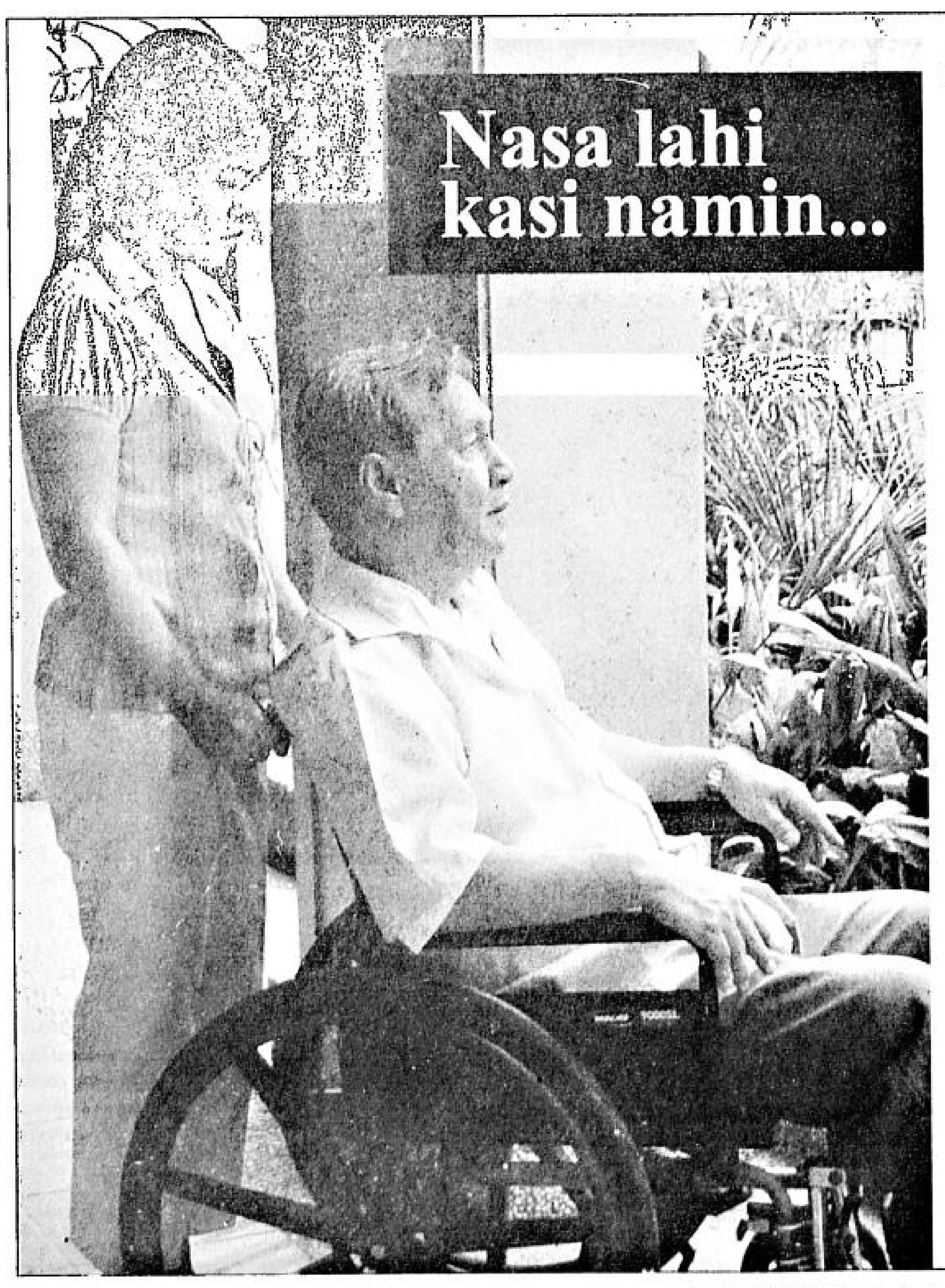
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Business urged to invest in power sector

PEREZ

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is urging investors to infuse much-needed capital into the power sector, particularly in the Visayas, to avert a crisis in the coming years.

In a statement, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. called on the private sector to invest in power generation projects to ensure that the country would have adequate supply of electricity.

He said specific attention should be given to the Visayas as many areas there were already experiencing rotating brownouts because of supply shortfall.

According to the DOE's 10-year Power Development Plan covering 2003-2014, Luzon will also need around 4,800 megawatts (MW) in additional capacity starting 2008 to ensure supply security.

Mindanao will also be needing another 550 MW of additional capacity by 2009, on top of the 210 MW which Mindanao Coal Power Project has committed to generate. The project will be undertaken by State Power Development Corp., a consortium of Filipino, Chinese and German investors.

As putting up a power plant will take at least three years—from groundbreaking to commercial operation, excluding financing—new investments in the power generation sector should start by 2005 at the latest.

Kepco Philippines Corp., the local arm of state-owned Korea Electric Power Development Corp., has already committed to expand its business here by building more plants or acquiring some of the generation assets that the National Power Corp. has placed on the auction block.

The company said it would put up a 200-MW plant in Cebu to help address the electricity needs of the power-hungry Visayas grid.

"In three to four months, we can give an estimate of how much we'll invest. (As for the fuel type), it will probably be the same type as in Panay, which is coal," he said.

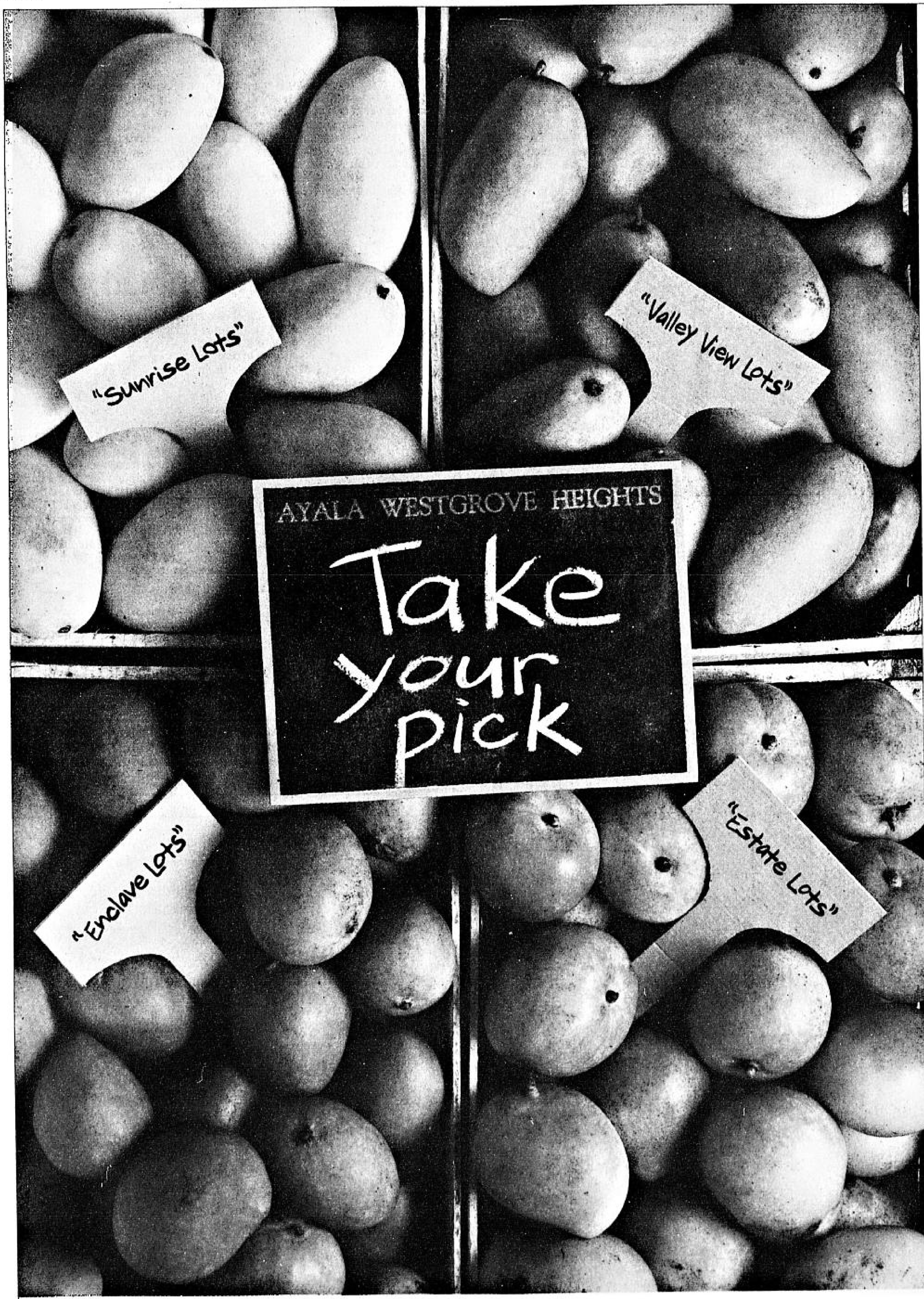
As for Napocor's assets that the company was eyeing, Lee said the firm had yet to identify which plants it would want to acquire.

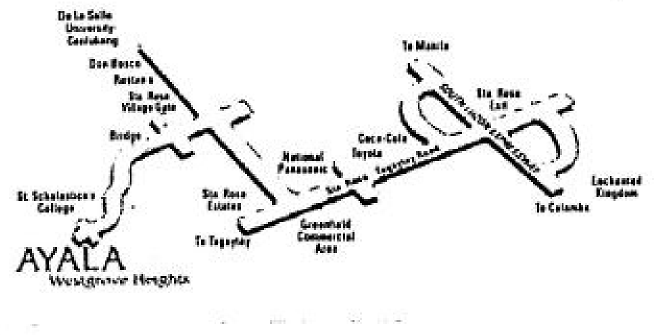
Kepco also wants to put up a $150-million coal-fired power plant in Banate, Iloilo, but the project has yet to take off because of stiff opposition from the Iloilo Provincial Board and some non-government organizations there.

The company also has 1,850 MW of installed capacity in Luzon, divided between the 1,200-MW Ilijan gas-fired plant in Batangas and the 650-MW Malaya oil-fired facility in Rizal.

While investments in Luzon plants were already in place and infusions in the Visayas were currently in the pipeline, Lee said Kepco was not looking at investing in Mindanao, as of the moment.

"We have no plans yet to invest there, but we can't really say for sure because we haven't surveyed the place yet," he said.





Different lots for diverse needs at Ayala Westgrove Heights

Ayala Westgrove Heights continues to be one of the most desirable places to live in, as proven by the number of lots purchased in the exclusive subdivision to date. They have been much sought-after by many different buyers with diverse needs. Residents also cite a lot of conveniences that living in the Ayala Land development has given them, including world-class amenities, proximity to trusted schools, and a regular commune with precious greenery.

Summer is the best time to check out Ayala Westgrove Heights' available lots, as a number of strategically located types have been unveiled. There are payment schemes aplenty, making these choice lots even more affordable and highly recommended.

"Sunrise lots"
- Located along the main road, this type of elevated lots have the needs of early risers in mind, affording them unobstructed views of sunrises from this vantage point.
- Sizes range from 417 to 487 square meters.

"Enclave lots"
- Situated in a tranquil enclave, these are the largest among those currently being sold. Only nine of them are for sale, ideal for either growing families needing ample space for movement, or nature-lovers needing a serene retreat from hectic routines.
- Sizes range from 435 to 542 square meters.

"Valley View lots"
- This set faces the valley, otherwise known in these parts as "Nature's Preserve". Highly elevated and constantly cool with concentrated gusts of winds, perfect for those who want peace and quiet set in a naturally rich ambiance.
- Sizes range from 355 to 449 square meters.

"Estate Lots"
- These are near the future Westgrove Plaza retail area, and steps away from St. Scholastica's College. These are perfect for those who have children studying in the school, or those who want the convenience of being able to take quick trips to the shops.
- These large, flat lots range from 645 to 868 square meters.

Whichever lot type one may fancy, the basic, permeating qualities of Ayala Westgrove Heights are always there. Security, safety, and unceasing relaxation are always guaranteed, and that is no less than what one expects from a home amidst the hills and groves.

For further information on these exceptional lot types and Ayala Westgrove Heights, please contact us at 848-5000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph, or email ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

At Ayala Westgrove Heights, we've taken care of giving more choices to the tasteful buyer. Rise to greet the sun through your bedroom window. Settle in a quiet and secluded enclave. Enjoy a stunning view of the valley from your backyard. Or have abundant space for a large family estate. Whatever your needs, choice lots are now ready for picking. So if you want a piece of the Next Big Thing, don't let this chance slip by. Make Ayala Westgrove Heights your home today.

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To each his own heaven

By Marge C. Enriquez
Fashion photos by Wig Tysmans

WE are all travelers hoping to reach our own heaven. We can either take the fast lane and get burned out by road rage, or veer away from the superhighway to pursue a slower route that promotes road courtesy and driving skills rather than speed. Our preference of roads to traverse determines our mental and physical state upon arrival at our destination.

We do have a choice. On the fast route, we fail to enjoy the wondrous panorama. The road to relaxation can have so many forks and detours that we sometimes lose our sense of direction, but that adds to the surprise.

Venturing off the superhighway (or shall we call it "suffer highway?") can be challenging. Even if we try a new road, we soon find ourselves back on that stressful route—unless we dismiss the deep-seated habit that made us take the fast lane to begin with.

Mental refreshment can't be rushed. Keep in mind that the slow sojourn will lead to the paradise of placid perspectives—the utopia we all long for.

Lyrical, musical Loboc

"*Sa kabukiran, malayo ang sakit* (In the countryside, stress is far away)," warbled singer **Damaris Taldo** on a nipa-covered barge as it floated down the Loboc river in Bohol.

Can't call Loboc "hick town" even if it is a fifth-class municipality. It doesn't have such big-city problems as overpopulation, crime and pollution. ÉLAN's host during a recent visit, officer-in-charge **Luisito Digal**, relinquished the American Dream in favor of Loboc. He said even Europeans have settled in this town as an alternative to Boracay.

The Loboc river cruise is a must-do for every tourist, on top of watching the famed tarsiers. Dense trees bordering the water are home to hundreds of birds. The cruise climaxes with a view of the waterfalls slushing over the boulders.

Across the jade green waters Loboc shimmered, awashed in sunlight.

Although the main industries here are copra, rice, and native furniture and products, Loboc's pride is its musical heritage. Loboc is to the Philippines what Heidelberg is to the "Sound of Music." There are still many generations of families who play instruments and sing, like the Von Trapps of Austria.

As early as 1607, a Spanish friar wrote in his chronicles that he heard a procession of children singing like angels as they made their way down the river. Now, centuries later, the town has produced the world-class Loboc Children's Choir.

Calmed by the lapping of waves against the hull, enchanted by the billowy skies and marshes, we listened to the musicians—**Nelson Digal** and **Antonio Ramin** slugging it out on the synthesizer and electric guitar. Upon request, they switched to the folk guitar and banjo. Their repertoire ranged from the latest hits to *kundiman* to Spanish ballads.

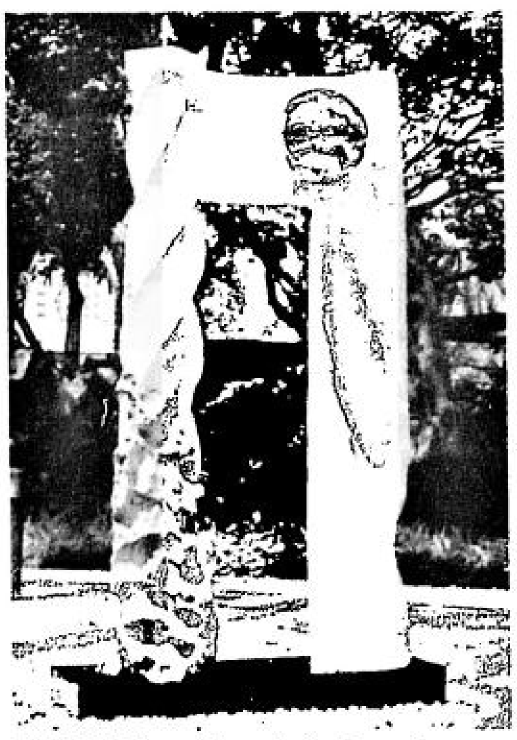
"I thought it was natural for everyone to sing," said Taldo, who grew up in this musical town. "And I thought all the churches were humongous." When she came to study in Manila, she realized the fortune of being born here.

This quaint charm of Loboc made it an ideal location for our pictorial with Human, with the town's famous spots as setting. Our theme was innocent summer love. The inspirational slogan on Human's t-shirt says it all: "You have already reached what you haven't even dreamed about." *See pictorial on page C4.*

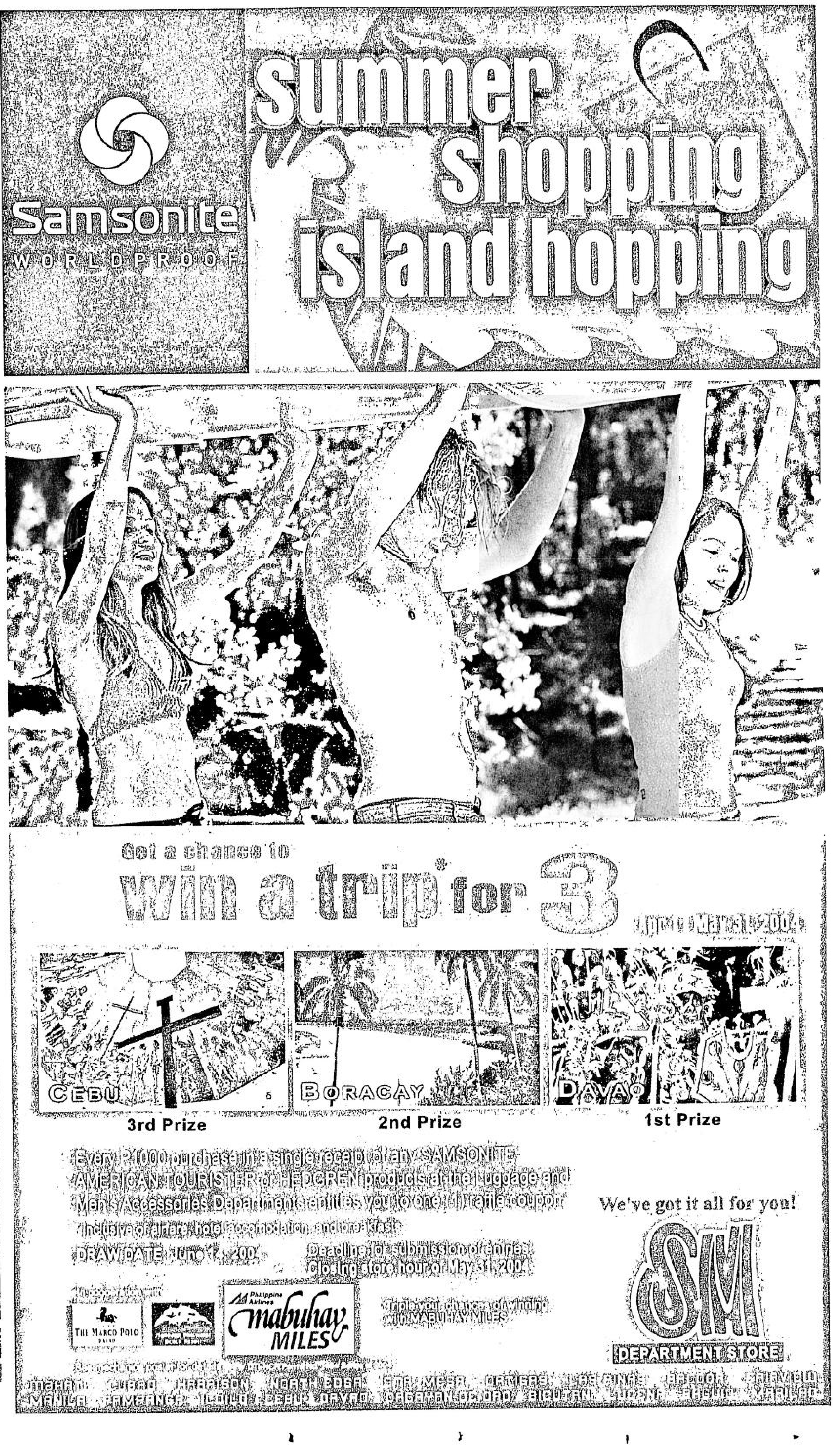
Art from the heart

When media makes a Who's Who or Whatever list, I sometimes disagree with the choices because they are based on shallow attributes such as face value or popularity. On the other hand, people who constantly strive to perfect their craft get little media mileage unless they come upon tragic circumstances, such as the fate of **Joe Salazar**. One artist who deserves accolade is **Impy Pilapil** who is constantly creating works that touch the heart.

"What art offers is space, a breathing room for the spirit," wrote John Updike. This is the gist of humanities expert **Leo Garcia**'s review of Pilapil's sculptures showcased in Greenbelt 4. Her works provide inspiration for man's journey to self-awareness. The textures of the Romblon marble and stone are sensual, yet the forms convey inner convictions that people can relate to.


PILAPIL'S 'Entry' is symbolic of opening the door of our hearts to the Divine.

ROMANCE at the Hanging Bridge of Loboc wearing Human's new sports line. On Anja: round-neck eyelet polyester shirt with print and patch detail; Human shorts; men's varsity jacket. On Jon: polyester sportshirt; Human track pants convertible to shorts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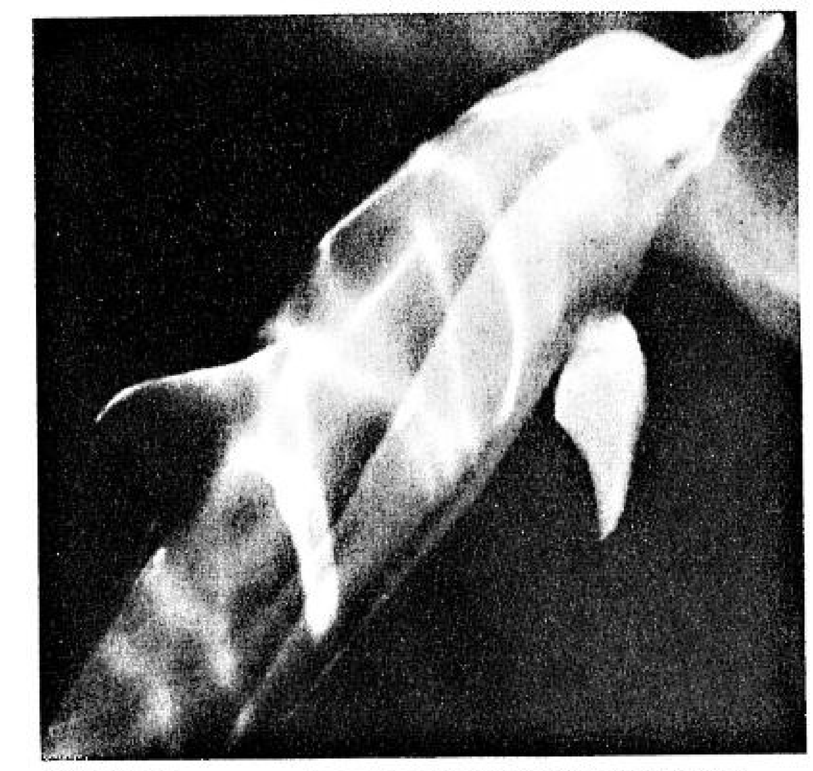
Sheltering Pamilacan

By Martin Valdes
Contributor

There's this small island in Bohol named for a weapon, whose product is an experience, whose people are proud, and whose colors are the delicate, protean patterns of life



DOLPHINS are among the most common sightings in the island.

THE COLORS of Bohol defy description. This much is clear even before the plane touches down at the Tagbilaran City airport. Visible from the airplane window is a modest view of the island. Roughly oval with a smattering of satellite islets, it reminds me of a human heart—not the cartoon sketch in greeting cards, but the actual fist-shaped, blood-pumping organ. Most intriguing is the way the colors seem to shift subtly. From the dense, mountainous interior of burgundy and burnt orange, the hues emanate outward, like a tinted ripple of greens and browns leaving behind an ivory shoreline crowned with an aquatic halo of jade and teal. As the plane draws nearer, a passing cloud makes it seem like I'm viewing a different island altogether. This island breathes.

"Alive" would be an apt description for Bohol. Located in Central Visayas surrounded by Cebu, Leyte and Southern Leyte, it is historically acknowledged as the seat of the first international peace treaty signed between the native chieftain, Datu Sikatuna, and Spanish conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legaspi on March 25, 1565. The province was founded on July 22, 1854.

Bohol is also world-renowned for its ecological sites. The Chocolate Hills and the tarsier monkey have become synonymous with the region, but there's so much more to this place than the eerily uniform geologic undulations and wide-eyed Pokemon. The rugged terrain and 654 kilometers of coastline offer the eco-warrior a variety of activities ranging from diving, spelunking, hiking, or simply vegging-out on one of several white-sand beaches. The controlled developmental process, as well as the attention of local and foreign concern groups, has also ensured that Bohol remains an ecological wonderland. Foremost of these attractions is Pamilacan Island.

Aqua marine

The sea is a shade of cobalt so deep, it is almost profound. In the dawn light, it is difficult to discern the sky from the waterline. I shiver in my life jacket as the ocean spray invades my personal space. Standing on the prow of the *banca*, the lone lookout suddenly signals the passengers, indicating a location in the vague distance. We search obediently, scanning the water for telltale breaks of gunmetal and silver. My eyes adjust, and what I earlier thought were simply waves, take distinct shape. Soon, the boat is surrounded by a pod of dolphins, boasting, vying for our attention.

A marvel of natural synergy, the small island of Pamilacan is 40 minutes south of Bohol by boat. White sands circle its coasts and its 12-hectare marine sanctuary. The rich waters surrounding this 144-hectare expanse is among the country's main migration routes for marine mammals and cetaceans. In the Philippines, there are 19 confirmed species of whales and dolphins. There are 11 of these in Pamilacan, which translates to 60 percent of the total. Among the most common sightings include bottle-nosed dolphins, Fraser dolphins, Bryde's whales, whale sharks and even schools of manta rays.

The history of Pamilacan is just as fascinating as its aquatic denizens. The island's name comes from *pilak*, a hooked instrument used to snare the marine mammals. Until as recently as the 1980s, fishing was the main source of livelihood for the villagers, and hundreds of whales and dolphins were caught every season for consumption or for sale to lucrative export markets. By the mid-1990s, the decrease in marine life population had become obvious—what once teemed only a few hundred feet away from the shore, became a rare sighting.

A study conducted in 1997 through the joint efforts of the Department of Tourism, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) confirmed the marine life depletion, and a ban against the hunting of whales, dolphins, whale sharks and manta rays was implemented the very next year. This left the villagers with no means of livelihood.

Nimrod is a hunter

Mang Leo used to be a hunter. As he spots more bottle-nosed dolphins to our left, he explains in graphic detail how he used to "harvest" the whales and dolphins surrounding Pamilacan. He also reminisces about the sheer volume of aquatic animals that used to populate the area—how one couldn't even take a small boat out without bumping into a resting whale.

When the ban was implemented in 1998, the islanders had no choice but to alter their lifestyle. With the assistance of the WWF, they put up the Pamilacan Island Dolphin and Whale Watching Organization (PIDWWO), an industry focused on observation rather than obliteration. The irony was sublime; the hunters had become the guardians. Former Nimrods like Mang Leo now harnessed the very abilities they once used to decimate, in order to educate guests of Pamilacan regarding the protected habitat and its denizens.

Grinning now, he points out a particularly frisky dolphin slashing mischievously ahead of our boat. "It's playing with us," he says.

PIDWWO has not been spared from birth pains. The marketing and machinery necessary to effectively promote the new organization are still being realized through, to say the least, a gradual process. Factor in a service wholly dependent on the whimsical presence of animals in the wild, and you have a product that is an occasional no-show. Resistance to the less lucrative business of tourism divided the islanders; many families continued to hunt despite the ban.

But through the persistent efforts of all concerned, the vision of a sustainable industry and an island of enduring aesthetic have begun to unite the people. The purpose of this project is not only to entertain, but to educate, to create an awareness of the symbiosis that exists between several species occupying the same spaces. The success of the project depends greatly on tourism, which should generate enough steady income for the villagers to discourage them from returning to their old hunting habits. Hopefully, the future would be beneficial for the twin populace, both above and below the waterline, that call Pamilacan home.

In the middle of the Philippines lies Bohol, a region that embodies the most valiant efforts of man and nature to coexist. And then there's this small island named for a weapon, whose product is an experience, whose people are proud, and whose colors are the delicate, protean patterns of life.

For the Marine Life Tour contact Pamilacan Island Dolphin and Whale Watching Organization at (0917) 971-3101; tel. nos. (038) 411-3510 local 607 or fax (038) 411-5928; email: tvillage@moz-com.com.

Community Life Tours feature a visit to the Ablan Watershed, a cruise down Abatan River. Guests can stay with a family and watch chocolate tablet making, nipa gathering and weaving, or shell fish and srhimp catching.

Call (038) 411-3641 and 501-7742 or visit website www.process-boholorg.

Bohol Tourism Office
(038) 501-9186 or fax (038)411-3666. email at bohol-tourism@yahoo.com

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Ananyana beckons

This hideaway in Bohol has been luring Europeans as much with its simplicity as with its natural resplendence

LIKE Boracay, Bohol has become a magnet for Westerners, owing much to the available world-class accommodations. Ananyana, for instance, combines local and Indonesian elements with Western comforts. This resort getaway is on Doljo Beach, Panglao Island, 25 minutes away from the airport and city proper. Its beauty lies in its exclusivity and warm hospitality.

Ananyana is a corruption of the word *anyaya*, or invitation. The resort used to be the vacation house of culinary artist Emma Ruth Gomez, who enjoyed throwing parties for friends. To take in larger groups, an extension was at first constructed. In 2000, it became a full-fledged resort with eight suites and two family suites, each with an open-air bath.

The architecture was inspired by the Four Seasons Resort in Indonesia, which is highlighted by an open *bale* or pavilion. Traditionally, the *bale* is a raised, four-poster platform with a thatched roof, that was used as a gathering place for communal affairs.

Open on all sides to provide an unobstructed view of the sea, the *bale* also serves as a prodigious lounge in which to unwind, making it an outdoor bar and dining pavilion. At Ananyana, foreigners like to take their meals and play with the *kulintang*, the gongs and Muslim drums.

Tasteful

A stone pathway cuts through a soft lawn of carabao grass and leads to the guesthouses. The suites are furnished simply, with emphasis on natural materials. Sliding doors open to the tropical garden. The outdoor-indoor finish is achieved by a shift in flooring material. The warm patina of the mahogany floor contrasts with the smooth surfaces of the white walls.

Organic furnishings are tastefully positioned, reflecting the owner's penchant for Asian art, which lends character to the ambience and also integrates the contemporary-traditional look. Every morning, fresh towels are neatly wrapped in bows of coconut midrib. Even the soaps are wrapped in fresh leaves.

Ananyana's market mix has been largely European, thanks to writer Jens Peter, who also introduced Boracay to the West. His guidebook on the Philippines has lured Europeans, who come to this place touting it. This is not a place for backpackers, since the food is not cheap by local standards.

Best part

The best part of the Ananyana experience is the staff's solicitous hospitality. Resident manager Jessie Naval was a Manila policeman. Weary of the seedy side of police work, he decided to return to Bohol and start anew. Emma Ruth's sister, Elaine Gomez, oversees the housekeeping and kitchen while their brother Emerson supervises the dive shop. The staffers, who come from the nearby provinces, have learned to speak English fluently. Everybody has come to adore the young butler, Jerwin Bongolto, or Dodong, and the chef Richard Guioguio, who was trained to make mean pizzas and pastas. He also impresses visitors with an international buffet of broccoli with herb potatoes, *tinola*, salad, chicken tikka, *naan* bread, prawns wrapped in lemongrass, jackfish kebabs, grilled *lapu-lapu*, heart of palm and grated coconut crepe with bananas. These are served on the beachfront.

It feels like staying in a friend's house rather than a resort. Guests can spend the whole day cocooning, and the chef can prepare meals to their most detailed specifications.

Ask guests why the experience is unforgettable, and they will be unanimous in saying that the seclusion gives them time for personal space—even in their hearts.

For details call (038) 5028101 or email: info@ananyana.com.

PHOTO: Wig Tysmans
FASHION: Bench Body
MODEL: Matt Hadfield

RELAXING in style by the poolside

Destination of the year

BOHOL is touted as destination of the year for its nature tours, beaches, cultural heritage and crafts. A cultural showcase will be mounted during Heritage Weekend, from April 30 to May 1.

On April 30, a Friday, the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Exhibit will be opened at the New Baclayon Museum Extension in Baclayon. There will be an organ concert with acclaimed organist Eric P. Dimson and a community play by the Holy Trinity Parish Youth Group of Loay.

In Loboc, there will be historical and mythical reenactments at the riverbanks by the Loboc Community Theatre, a fair of local arts and crafts, and the launch of Loboc Tuburan Center for Living Traditions with an exhibit on the Calenda, Maestros and Cantoras of Loboc, and a show at the St. Peter the Apostle Parish Church of Loboc featuring the world-class Loboc Children's Choir.

At the plaza, there will be shows by the Loboc Brass Band, Dimiao Rondalla, Balitaw, Kuradang, Comparsas, Trouvers Choir, Baclayon Male Choir, and with the special participation of the NAMCYA (National Music Competition for Young Artists) national champion Silay Children's Rondalla from Negros Occidental.

On May 1, the capital Tagbilaran City will hold its feast in honor of St. Joseph the Worker with a concelebrated Pontifical Mass. The Misa Baclayana will be sung by the the Loboc Children's Choir, Cathedral Parish Choir, Baclayon Parish Choir, Bohol Parish Choir, Trouvers Choir and Baclayon Musica Entre Nous.

At the Rocha House, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts will launch a definitive book on the province, "Tubod: The Heart of Bohol." A photographic exhibit and diorama of Sitio Ubos, old heritage district of Tagbilaran, designed and curated by the Holy Name University Office of Culture and Arts Development, will be opened.

On May 8-9, May 15-16, 22-23 and 29-30, the following tour experiences will be available: visit to Baclayon Church and New Museum; Loboc Heritage Cruise focusing on river folkways, Loboc Children's Choir concert; Loboc Music Exhibit at Tuburan Museum in the convent, a heritage fair of crafts and cuisine, plus a special cultural treat on May 24, Loboc's town fiesta.

Email gardushka@yahoo.com, lobocchildrenschoir@yahoo.com, or dftaldo@yahoo.com

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Adult-friendly summer treat

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor

SUMMER, like Christmas, seems to diminish in appeal the older one gets. Tempers rise along with temperatures; major highways, malls and beaches are packed; parents must deal with having restless children underfoot. The concept of summer as the season for rest and relaxation vanishes with one's first punch-in of a time card.

Mercifully, there is relief for the weary; a decidedly pro-adult vacation package that guarantees world-class amenities and includes sweeping views of the sea, sans long drives or flights. With the Westin Philippine Plaza's Stay and Spa package, couples (or a couple of friends) can have that getaway without having to literally get away from the metropolis.

I experienced it for myself on a withering March weekend, and I daresay that The Westin's room, breakfast and spa treatment package is a godsend to summer scrooges. On top of the usual buffet breakfast for two and use of sports facilities, I enjoyed spa privileges that went beyond enjoyment of the whirlpool, sauna and steam room. Guests can have their own personal locker. They are served lemongrass tea. They can also join a fitness class (yoga, Pilates, aerobics, or kick-boxing) during their stay.

Most wonderful of all is the choice of three different spa treatments. In a private room, a couple can get an aromatherapy body massage and facial; or a therapeutic body massage with a footbath; or an Indian head massage, with foot reflexology and a relaxing all-over body massage. Parents who worry about where to stash the children in the meantime, take heart: The Westin's Kid's Club is just a few steps away, and is equipped with a mini-theater and computer games, stocked up with snacks, and manned by a kid-loving staff. How's that for guilt-free indulgence?

At P6,500, The Westin package is perhaps the best deal among the city's five-star hotels. It is also very Pinoy-friendly: a family of four can stay in a room. If you're up to a really luxurious treat away from the children, P11,000 will get you a suite in the Executive Club floor (where kids are not allowed), with the trademark Heavenly Bed and the same spa perks.

Okay, so there are people who don't have even two days to spare. Weekend warriors can book The Westin's new Thai-inspired private spa room and invest as little as two hours to soothe their harried bodies. Imagine a candle-lit room with a whirlpool bath and a massage bed for two strewn with flowers, and, should you choose it, either champagne, chocolate truffles or a gourmet spa meal for two. Guaranteed are not only rest and relaxation, but rejuvenation and romance as well.

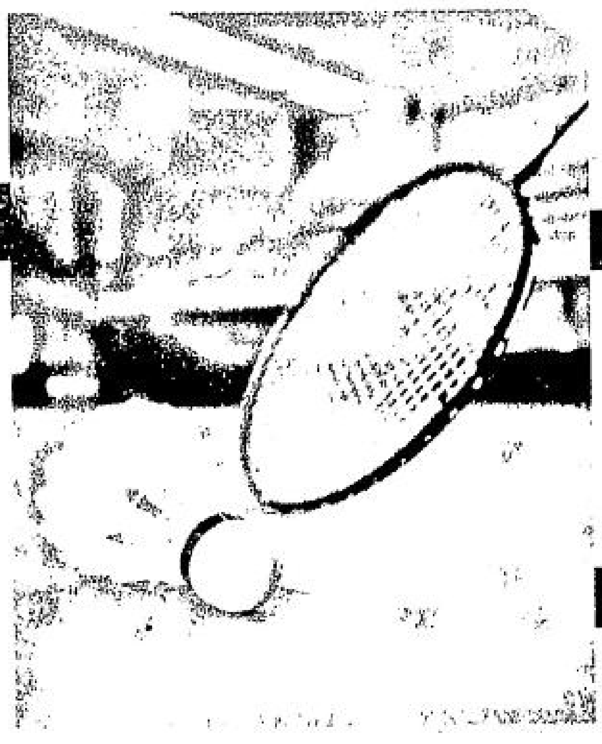
Packages for the Thai-inspired couples room start at P3,000 and are available to non-registered guests. We highly recommend booking a room along with the spa package. That, or be sure to bring a driver. The capable hands of The Westin's masseuses left us in such a happy stupor that we barely managed the elevator ride back to our room.

SLEEP in heavenly peace. The all-white Heavenly Bed consists of a custom-designed pillow-top mattress set; a down blanket; three crisp cotton sheets; a comforter and five pillows.

Get into the sporty life

Summer is a great time for sports at SM Supermalls, you'll never run out of sports activities to keep yourself active and interested.

Sign up for the biggest JVC Junior Badminton Championship



JVC

Juniors 14 and UNDER

JVC continues its commitment to badminton with the JVC Junior Badminton Championship at SM Supermalls. This summer's edition promises to be bigger and more exciting than ever before. With the boom in badminton, young enthusiasts will be delighted to know that JVC continues to give this popular sport the boost!

The category is Juniors, 14 years old and under. The events are: boys singles, girls singles, boys doubles, girls doubles, and mixed doubles. Entry fee is P100. Deadline of entries is on April 2, 2004.

Winners will have a field day enjoying big prizes including a college educational plan. This is indeed the biggest JVC Juniors event ever!

JVC is the lead sponsor, with support from Alaska, Gosen, Toby's, Accel, Philippine Star, Tokyo Tokyo, Rudy Project, Pioneer Insurance, Lactacyd and Agfa. The event is being organized by IMG, the world's biggest sports marketing company.

SPORTSHOUSE

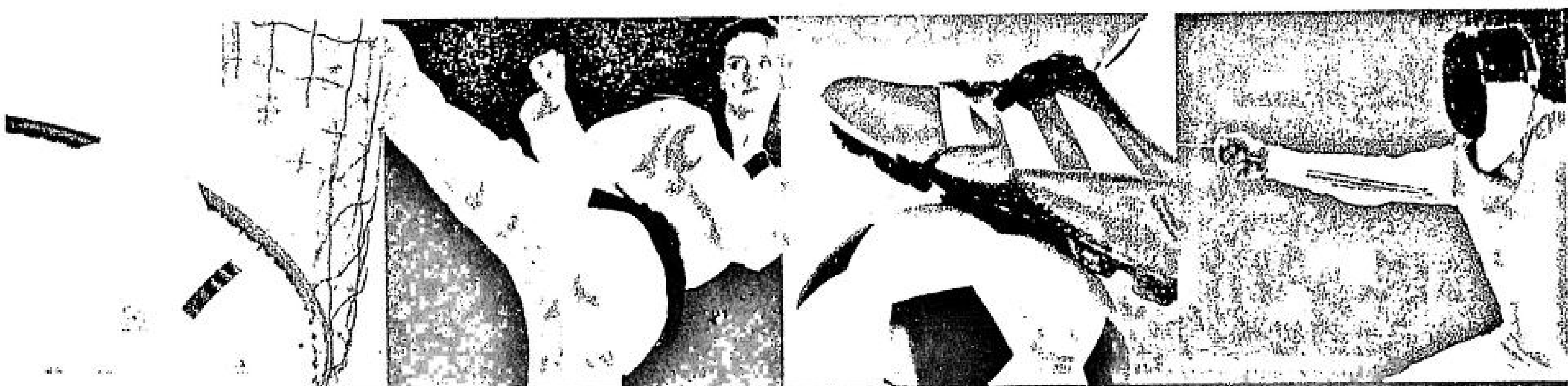
Sportshouse, the leading retailer of sports and fitness gears, presents Summer Sports Madness, a special big big sale of sports items in all Sportshouse branches. In line with this summer sale, Sportshouse will conduct a "Dart Mall Tour" and "Basketball Fiesta" events in selected SM Malls starting March 21 to bring life into sports and sports into people's lives.

TOBY'S Basketball Shootout

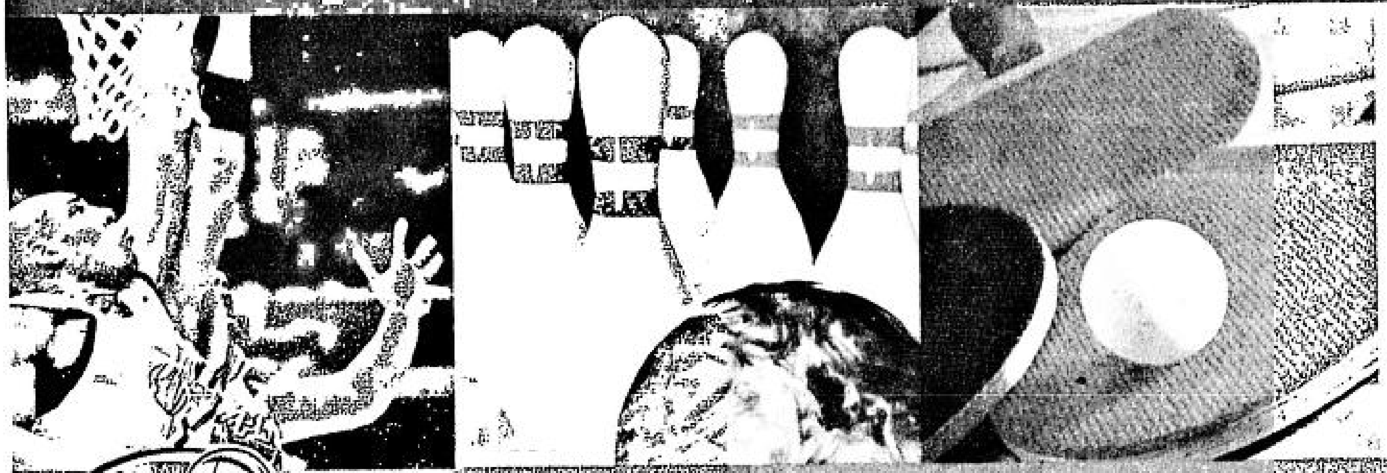
Think you can play ball? Then prove it with Toby's Basketball Shootout Mall Tour. Make as many shots as you can from 3-point range and win spectacular prizes from Toby's. Or compete in a series of Basketball Skills contests to prove who's the best of the best. Watch basketball clinics given by the pros and get excited over amazing slam-dunk exhibitions.

ADIDAS STREET BALL

The country's biggest half court basketball tournament now on its 9th year at SM Supermalls.



SUMMER sports



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MOLTEN BASKETBALL MUSEUM

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HALF COURT AREA

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JVC BADMINTON SCHEDULES

March	27-28	SM North Edsa	May	08-09	SM Cebu
April	03-04	SM City Baguio		15-16	SM Iloilo
	16-18	SM Megamall		22-23	SM Southmall
	24-25	SM Pampanga		29-30	[illegible]

BASKETBALL

Dribble your way through the defense to score a lay-up or even a slam dunk.

TAEKWONDO

Kick your spirits high! Test your strength, focus and discipline to topple your opponent.

FENCING

Touché! Master the art of dazzling swordplay.

SOCCER

Want to be the next David Beckham? Then kick your way through to score a goal!

TABLE TENNIS

Test your skills and coordination in this high-speed game.

BOWLING

Roll the ball... Hit the pins in the alley and go for a spare or a strike.

SPORT CLIMBING

Test your skills and endurance to reach the top.

DARTS

Target the bull's eye or go for a double or a tripple.

CHEER LEADING

Help get the crowd rally your team to a comeback and a win.

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PROMO PERIOD : April 1-30, 2004
DRAW DATE : May 2, 2004
DRAW VENUE : All SM Supermalls Mall Activity Area and/or at the Mall Admin. Office.
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES : April 30, 9PM

PROMO PERIOD:
APRIL 1, 2004 to April 30, 2004
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1282, Series of 2004

EVENT SCHEDULES

SM Megamall
April 12-15 *Sport Climbing*
April 16-18 *JVC Badminton*
April 17-18 *Adidas Streetball*
April 26-27 *3 on 3 Madskillz*
April 28-29 *Taekwondo*

SM Manila
April 13-14 *Table Tennis*
April 15-17 *9 Ball Challenge*
April 17-23 *PBA Interactive*

SM Sucat
April 1-3 *Sportshouse Darts / Sport Climbing*
April 12-18 *PBA Interactive*
April 24-25 *Table Tennis*

SM North Edsa
April 1-4 *PBA Interactive*
April 19-25 *Sport Climbing*
April 29-30 *Toby's Basketball*

SM Sta. Mesa
April 17-18 *Table Tennis*
April 23-25 *Sportshouse Darts*
April 24-29 *PBA Interactive*

SM Fairview
April 2-3 *Toby's Basketball*
April 4 *Table Tennis*
April 13-14 *Taekwondo*
April 16-18 *Sportshouse Darts*
April 24-25 *Football*

SM Bicutan
April 23 *3 on 3 Basketball Tournament*
April 26-30 *Sport Climbing*

SM Southmall
April 3-4 *Football*
April 17-18 *AAK Karatedo*
April 19-25 *PBA Interactive*

SM Bacoor
April 4 *AAK Karatedo*
April 23-25 *Sportshouse Basketball*
April 28-29 *Football*

SM Baguio
April 3-4 *JVC Badminton*
April 12/19/26 *Aerobic Mondays*
April 20-21 *Basketball Lecture Forum*
April 24-25 *JVC Taekwondo*

SM Pampanga
April 12-15 / 19-21 / 26-27 *Karatedo Workshop*
April 17-18 *Taekwondo*
April 24-25 *JVC Badminton*

SM Lucena
April 19 / 22-30 *Fit for Life Taebo, Aero and Kickboxing*
April 20-21 *Football*

SM Marilao
April 1-4 *PBA Interactive*
April 20-21 *Taekwondo*
April 30 *Sportshouse Basketball*

SM Cebu
April 3-4 *Taekwondo*
April 10-11 *Chess*
April 17-18 *Table Tennis*
April 24 *Wushu*
April 25 *Arnis*

SM Iloilo
April 1-4 *Sports Clinic*
April 3 *Martial Arts*
April 12-18 *Palarong Visayas*
April 13-14 *Football*
April 28-30 *Taekwondo & Table Tennis*

SM Davao
April 17-18 *Football*
April 24-25 *AAK Karatedo*
April 26-28 *Futsal*
April 29-30 *PBA Appearance*

SM Cagayan De Oro
April 3-4 *Table Tennis*
April 5-6 *Chess*
April 25 *Taekwondo*
April 27-28 *PBA Appearance*

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

To each his own heaven

From page C1

Our choice of roads determines our mental and physical state upon arrival at the destination

WITH the world-class Loboc Children's Choir in front of the 300-year-old Church of St. Peter the Apostle. On both models: round-neck tees with the quote "Let every step bring you closer to your goal."

ON ANJA: orange pop art handbag; red Human sweatband; Human cut-off blue jeans. On Jon: Human blue denim jeans. On Loboc Children's Choir: all sports caps and shirts from Human

MAJOR attraction. The tarsiers are the smallest living primates and one of the oldest species in the country. On both models: round-neck tees with pop art print and contrast ribbing. On Anja: pop art-print bikini. On Jon: Human denim pants

THE LOBOC River Cruise travels upstream toward the Busay Falls and downstream to scenic Loay. On Anja: round-neck periwinkle shirt, camouflage capri pants, native fan from Bohol Arts and Crafts Center. On Jon: floral-printed poplin long-sleeved shirt, Human denim shorts, Banduria courtesy of Bohol Arts and Crafts Museum

CLOTHING: Human
MODELS: Jonathan Mullaly and Anja Chua
STYLING: Noel Manapat
HAIR AND MAKEUP: Krist Bansuelo
COSMETICS: Prestige, Beauty Bar
PHOTOGRAPHER WIG TYSMANS' ASSISTANT: Ric Beri

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Fr. Desiderio Magdoza, Luis Digal, Tubuan Program, Lutgardo Labad, Alma and Damaris Taldo

Asian Spirit flies daily to Tagbilaran City.

Loboc River Cruise
(038) 537-9195 or
(0917) 255-6422,
(0916) 5853067

Supercarp Boat Rental and Tarsier Park (088)537-9062 or (0917)252-4501

Summer Sale Wave continues in SM CITY LUCENA and SM CITY MARILAO

Beat the summer heat with two SUPER MALLWIDE SALE happening in Lucena and Marilao! The intensity continues with great savings on mallwide selections this April 16, 17 and 18!

Hot items on great selections now on SALE from fashions, accessories, personal care products, baby essentials, toys, I.T. Gadgets, groceries, household appliances, home furnishings and many more! Mallwide SALE starts from 9 am - 10 pm

SUMMER TRIP TO LUCENA

SM gives you more reasons to visit the historic town of Lucena this summer. Situated along Dalahican Road corner Maharlika Highway, SM CITY LUCENA has been the favorite shopping hub of locals and travellers alike, including residents of the nearby towns of Tayabas, Pagbilao, Sariaya, Candelaria and even stretching far beyond the Quezon province. To date, the mall houses more than 130 specialty shops and restos.

Quezon locals are now invited to the first MALLWIDE SALE happening this weekend in CITY LUCENA! Avail of the fabulous discounts, great bargains, special offers and even raffle prizes!

SUPER
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SALE
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up to
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on great selections

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Win one of 15 LG Air Conditioners in the DAILY DRAW

MARILAO
Win one of 12 LG Flatron Colored TV 53.3cm(21") in the DAILY DRAW

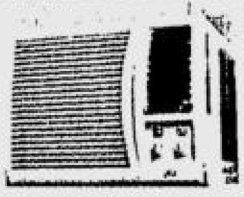
mall hours
9am
to
10pm

SM City LUCENA
SM City MARILAO

See mechanics poster for details

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1702 Series of 2004

SUPER MALLWIDE RAFFLE!



Get a chance to win one of 15 1hp LG Air Conditioners to be raffled during the SALE!

LG

Every P 200 single or accumulated purchase (cash or charge) from SM Supermarket, SM Department Store, SM Foodcourt or participating Mall establishments (food and non-food) entitles customer to one (1) raffle coupon.

- **SM CINEMA** Customer gets one (1) raffle coupon for every four (4) single purchase of Cinema tickets.
- **AMUSEMENT CENTERS** One (1) raffle coupon for every P 100 single purchase of tickets / tokens.

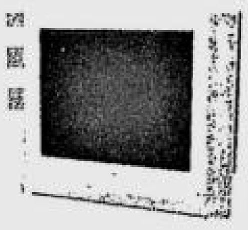
Earn additional raffle coupon when you present the 3-DAY SALE leaflet along with your proof of purchase!

Promo Period : April 16 to 18, 2004
Draw Date: 5 LG Air Conditioners to be raffled daily at the Entertainment Plaza of CITY LUCENA at 9:00 pm

SHOP and WIN in SM CITY MARILAO

Proud Bulakeños will surely be delighted to experience the first ever mallwide sale on April 16, 17 and 18! Situated along MacArthur Highway, **SM CITY MARILAO** paved the way for a one stop-shopping haven for Bulacan residents. Shoppers will surely enjoy attractive discounts on great selections mallwide.

LG



Plus, a chance to bring home one of the 12 units of 21" LG FLATRON Colored TV on the Super Mallwide SALE Raffle!

Every P200 single or accumulated purchase (cash or charge) from Super SM Hypermarket. SM Department Store, SM Foodcourt and Mall Tenants (food and non-food) entitles customer to one (1) raffle coupon.

- **SM CINEMA** Customer gets one (1) raffle coupon for every four (4) single purchase of Cinema tickets.
- **AMUSEMENT CENTERS** Customer gets one (1) raffle coupon for every P100 single purchase of tokens / tickets.

Promo Period : April 16 to 18, 2004
Draw Date: Prizes to be raffled daily at the SM CITY MARILAO Entertainment PLAZA at 9:15 pm.

SM FOODCOURT

Coke Ko 'to, Meal Ko 'to, Prize Ko 'to! Promo at the SM Foodcourt will run til May 31.

A minimum P50 purchase plus any Coca Cola product at SM Foodcourt entitles the customer to join the Beat Match Game at the designated Coke booth.

Win premium Coke items instantly! Also get a chance to win FREE Merienda Meals from SM Foodcourt, FREE Movie Cards from SM Cinema and FREE Rides from Storyland. Also FREE Game Coupons from Grandslam Shoot-out!

Customer gets **FREE** Collectible Coke Tumblers for every upsizing of Coke drinks!

SM Foodcourt treats its customers to great meal savings during the Weekend Sale.

MOVIES IN THE CITY

See the latest flicks at the SM CINEMA during the weekend sale and get **FREE Movie Pass with every three (3) Movie Tickets purchased on April 16, 17 and 18!. Also get FREE Popcorn for every two (2) large softdrinks!**

HEXAGON-SHAPED villa built on the slope and around the trees

Primeval magic

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Bobot Meru

Find physical and mental repose in Boracay, away from the famed beachfront

BACK in the 1970s, a world-weary German traveler found his Valhalla in the *terra incognita* that was Boracay. Like a green balm, the island soothed the senses of Dieter Schrottmann. Resting his eyes on the horizon, he felt the release of all stress fueled by the pollution and materialism of city life. As a figure in the broad, virgin landscape, he began to see himself differently, his problems seemed unsubstantial. Boracay's magic worked on him gently: the more he soaked in the natural panorama, the faster his worries melted away.

Living *a la* Robinson Crusoe, Schrottmann woke up to the sight of nomadic Aetas outside his hut. Island visitors came in trickles. They were mostly bohemians who, searching for an alternative destination, reveled in the island's quietness.

"What fascinated the city folks was Boracay's simplicity," Schrottmann recalls. They dropped all defenses and illusions about themselves. There was no electricity then; travelers rented rooms for P5 a night and spent the day exploring or sailing.

Blasted by booze

The party scene started in the '80s with German and Swedish backpackers who guzzled cold beer on the beach. Members of Manila's happening crowd would often charter a plane to come for the weekend. One such group was led by German businessman Wolfgang Bierlein, who flew in with Baby Fores, Cristina Valdez and Budji Layug. They downed piña coladas and danced in the sand on what is now Pier 1.

When German tourist Jens Peter wrote about the Philippines in a guide book, he raved so much about Boracay, that it sent backpackers in droves. More Europeans came to the shores as the island paradise earned more notice. Eventually, foreigners settled in the island and put up restaurants. The expat community grew, united by sunset rituals of bonding with *tuba*, or sugarcane wine.

Tourism development had a price, though. Caucasian models working in Tokyo took their weekend breaks there, inciting an uproar by lolling in the sun with their bras off. The topless sunbathing attracted voyeurs, distracted local workers and created a moral dilemma for the Church. Drunken tourists sprawled on the sand was becoming a common site. With the influx of visitors brandishing thick billfolds, the gap between the rich tourist and the poor islander became more obvious.

Sandbars used to be the only hangout places. Now, hotels, bars and restaurants dot the landscape, their existence announced by omnipresent posters and streamers. All year round, the media is awash with images of Boracay's sand and sea. The island has become a marketer's wonderland as well.

No boundaries

Schrottmann and business partner Karen Reina offer an alternative by showing what is intrinsic in Boracay. They are making use of the efficacy of Boracay nature's balm with Mandala, a destination resort and spa. Built on Reina's 2.5-hectare property on the hills, Mandala is known for its exotic pampering services, many based on Eastern methods; also for watsu and water dance, pool treatments simulating the amniotic state in the womb. These help people reach some kind of mental counterpoise. Its best-kept secret is healing master Moh-Ching Yip, who designed the original spa menu.

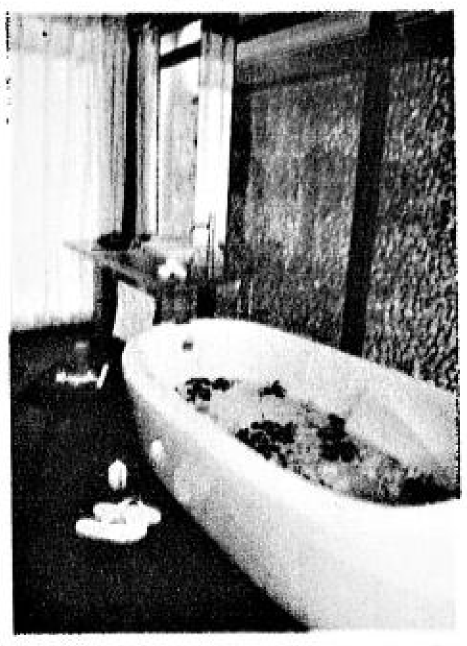
Despite the capitalism and hedonism virtually imposed on the beachfront, there's a market drawn to Boracay's natural world, which conveys serenity. Mandala Spa and Resort goes against the tide with a mission to promote all aspects of well-being—that the physical and mental are holistically linked.

This month Mandala opened 12 resort villas, for travelers who want to stay from six nights to two weeks for the cleansing and detox program, or simply for a retreat from the sensate culture.

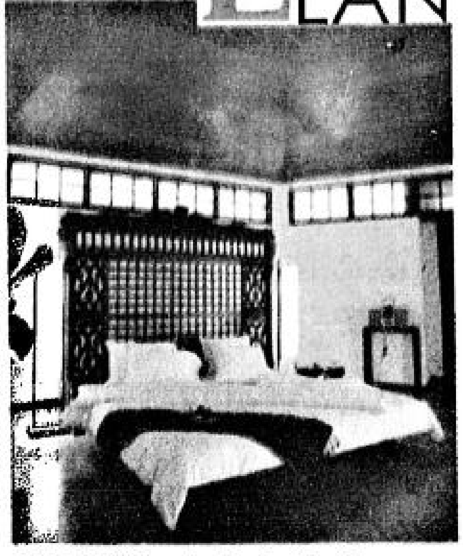
The environment refines the pleasure of the senses while offering a leisurely chance for the peaceful play of nature upon soul. The gently curving paths built on winding slopes create a sense of wonder as one walks around the resort to hear the birds and breathe fresh air. A sea of pebbles in the rock garden and clusters of bird's nest ferns, shrubs and rocks add to the serenity. Mango trees, blossoming *calachuchi* and bougainvilleas herald the summer. Light permeating the leaves in the groves emphasizes Mandala's obliviousness to the social scene on White Beach. It is a green immersion that comforts the eye.

The villas are hexagons built on the slopes to maximize the vistas from the hill. The design springs from the spirit of Mandala's owners, resulting in effortless grace. The union of East and West, says Schrottmann, is symbolic of the multiculturalism of Boracay. Rough coral stone walls, cogon roofs, warm Burmese teak flooring, graceful flow of space, and the openness and lightness in the planning, are the Eastern influences that reflect the traveler's unconscious longing for discovering his true self.

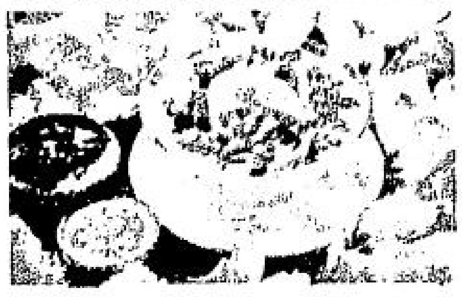
Glass-to-ceiling walls and viewing decks help "extend" the living environment to the outside.



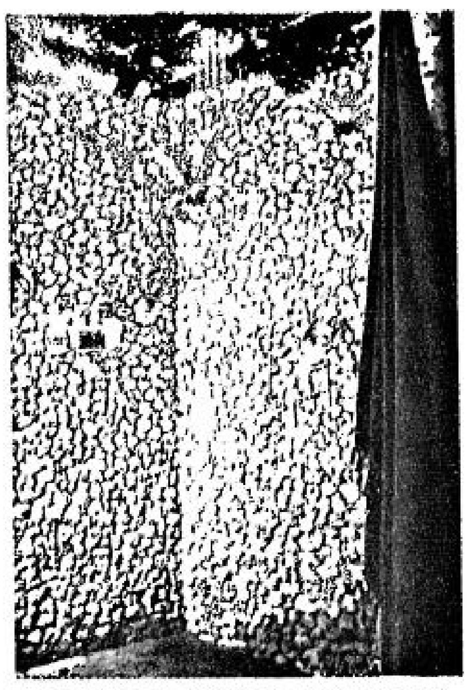
MASSAGE in the villa ends with a floral bath in a free-standing fiberglass tub. The placement is good feng shui—surrounded by energy.



ISLAND living. Peaked ceiling for ventilation, Burmese teakwood flooring



START the day with homemade yogurt, stewed fruit, fruit butters and muesli.



OUTDOOR shower features local coral stone and imported organic toiletries

KAREN Reina and Dieter Schrottmann

Inside, there is no perceptible boundary between private and public space. The villa doubles as sleeping quarters and studio for private yoga exercises and/or clinic for massage treatments. A wood-framed glass partition facilitates a graceful transition to reveal the bathroom without any hindrance from the architecture. Even in the bathroom there is a circuitous flow of energy around the fiberglass tub; Italian bidets and bowls lead to the stone-walled outdoor bath.

At night, the room is lit with cove lights and cylindrical paper lamps. The scent of incense wafts in the air. In the morning, rising from the white sheets becomes a metaphor for the start of a new day.

Mind over body

Mandala's program goes beyond reawakening the senses. Guests have to go vegetarian. There is a set breakfast of homemade muesli and yogurt, cardamon muffins, whole-grain bread and fruit butters. Lunch is usually an assortment of salads and sandwiches. The most popular dish is fried tofu atop a frisse salad of beans and cucumber, drenched in peanut sauce. Dinner is a vegetable starter, fried rice on pineapple boats and rich creamy cake laden with fruits.

Staying in Mandala gives guests time to loosen up, especially if their attitudes have hardened up like rocks as a defense against city stress. The water immersion treatments, administered by Reina, allow people to relax in a fluid state and enable them to get in touch with their feelings. Once they are peacefully rested in the water, their actions and emotions change from incoherent to harmonious. The dance of water, a symbol of life, is synonymous with a healthy state of being.

In the Exhale treatment with Yip, the breath is unlocked and people are freed from their hoard of anguish, or they simply feel deep repose. It ends with a massage that releases the muscles from tension and lightens the burden of the mind.

Not everybody will have the same experience in Mandala. Majority are attracted to the cedar sauna, massages and body scrubs, done by physical therapy graduates trained intensively by Yip.

After the Exhale or water treatments, clients realize that their mental or emotional responses have created the tensions in their body; ergo, these will be eliminated by mind over body. They are the ones who have been smitten by Boracay's primeval magic.

Says Schrottmann: "This is the original Boracay lifestyle—to connect with the spirit. It had nothing to do with partying."

For details, call Mandala at (036) 288-5858 or visit the website at www.mandalaspa.com.

Spirited flight

Airline cooperative broadens its wingspan with new planes

IN THE realm of aviation travel, size matters.

The industry has developed machines along the two dogmas of aerial commutation: that reduced drag and greater lift are necessary for smoother take-offs; and, that nothing beats spacious leg room. Comfort is a luxury less manifest in domestic flights, compared to international flights, during which passengers enjoy lavish treatment. Asian Spirit has decided to broaden its wingspan by addressing the balance between the practicable and the pleasurable with—no, not more in-flight peanuts—newer, bigger planes.

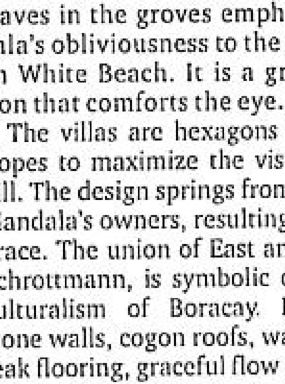
Established by the Airline Employees Cooperative, Asian Spirit is a domestic passenger airline that flies to tourist destinations as well as secondary and tertiary airports not serviced by other airline routes. Aside from being the country's youngest airline, it is also the only airline cooperative, meaning its 36 founding members own and operate the company. I recall, with the clarity of trauma, the first time I flew via Asian Spirit several years ago. The plane was a 19-seater LET410 Turbojet, about 25 feet long, powered by two turbo-prop engines and the passengers' collective faith. The journey was smooth, thanks to a plane that belied its size, a crew that proved quite professional, and a rosary blessed by the Pope.

The new generation 70-seater Advance Turboprop (ATP) aircraft is a leap forward in terms of technology and comfort. It has a passenger cabin that is more James Bond than Indiana Jones, pressurized for a cool and relatively noise-free flight. Its fully digital flight deck provides fail-safe dual auto-flight control, plus the Electronic Flight Instrumentation System (EFIS) displays the flight director, auto pilot, air data, navigation and weather information. The aircraft is powered by advance technology PW126 turboprops from the world-renowned Pratt & Whitney of Canada, driving Hamilton Standard six-bladed, low-revving propellers that deliver jet-speed performance. All this means is that the new Asian Spirit craft delivers international-class experience to a local destination.

According to Jack Po, executive vice-president of Asian Spirit, the acquisition of the new ATPs reflect the company's program of consistently improving their services through the addition of new technologies, modern equipment, and more passenger and cargo space. Increased demand for operations outside their existing routes also prompted the company to fortify their fleet with bigger and faster planes.

The flight from Manila to Tagbilaran, Bohol is just under two hours: long enough to feel like you're leaving the city, and short enough to not mind. In the past, the flight was just another hurdle before the actual vacation commenced. Asian Spirit's new planes go a long way in eliminating that perception, and actually extending the passengers' quality time by a few comfortable and pleasant hours. *Martin Valdes*

Call Asian Spirit at 851-8888.



LEONOR Goquingco

UP president honors Nat'l Artist for Dance

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines recently honored National Artist for Dance Leonor Orosa Goquingco in "The President's Hour." The program of Filipino video, music, poetry and dance was held at Quezon Hall in the Diliman Campus.

Touted as the Agnes de Mille of the Philippines, Goquingco pioneered in fusing Filipino styles and themes with ballet and modern dance, interpreted by her Filipinescas Dance Company. From 1961 to 1974, the troupe went on tour to perform her landmark "Filipinescas: Philippine Life, Legend and Lore in Dance."

Says Pedro Abraham, Filipinescas alumnus and head of the UP ensemble Kontra Gapi, "She reveals to us and to the world the soul of the Filipino—humanity, complexity, simplicity, beauty and, ultimately, truth."

Goquingco's other works include "Vinta," "Trend: Return to Native," and "Noli Dance Suite." Her citation says, "She confronted the endless challenge of elevating Philippine dance...lifting to its peak of national artistic development."

Now in her 80s, she oversees the rebirth of Filipinescas at the College of St. Benilde.

REVIEW

Chancing upon the ungraspable

"That which belongs to the spirit ... can only be realized in feeling, and to this feeling, the talent of the artist is the only road." —Wassily Kandinsky

By Leovino Garcia
Contributor

STEPPING into Greenbelt 4, I immediately sense that a benevolent force helped set up Impy Pilapil's latest exhibit (which runs through April 30). At the very heart of this materialist jungle that is Makati, a space has been carved out for a refreshing encounter with the spiritual. Within this blessed reserve, Pilapil's sculptures, all visual and tactile delights, become a concrete presence that transforms the surrounding environment into an oasis of quiet. In this haven of silence, Pilapil's works invite spectators to get away from frenzied shopping and insatiable consumption. They beckon us to stop, tarry, and listen to the unique Self that has all too-often been forgotten, even avoided, in the business of pursuing a living.

To simply delight in the spiritual! What can be more unnatural than to chance upon it in a commercial center? Yet, here it seems as commonplace as the translucent wings emerging from the trunks of the surrounding trees. An unbearable lightness overcomes me as I enter the magic zone and come face to face with the work entitled "Into the Hereafter." Is it my mother's recent passing that is enabling me to experience a "peace beyond understanding" as I look up to the canopy of trees that lets in the sky?

Pilapil speaks of a joyful "inner seeking" of the self, a quest perhaps not in the sense of discovery but of exploration. One does not *arrive* at the spiritual, like an end point. One is either there or not there. Yes, it requires a "leap of faith."

The marble pillar serendipitously entitled "Faith" elevates the beholder in an upward movement of thinking, thanking that which cradles one for "all that has been." Pilapil's "Door" is an opening that urges one to come in and exclaim "Yes!" to "all that will be." It is no coincidence that Pilapil favors marble; this material is believed to resonate with the spiritual, as illustrated in the temples of India.

Pilapil prods us to "touch with care," to actually "caress" her works. A caressing hand does not take, does not grasp. It may be the supreme paradox that in neither grasping nor taking, we finally understand that it is the ungraspable that holds us, supports us. And, the power of touch represents a conveyance of energy.

The ungraspable in Pilapil's sculptures of marble, stone, glass and stainless steel is evoked by the movement of purity, grace, and lightness identified with water—the elemental crux of her work.

If you long, like a heart, for the refreshing waters of the spirit, come quickly to Zen garden in Greenbelt and treat yourself to Pilapil's spiritual delights.

E-mail the author at lgarcia@ateneo.edu.

La diva loca

'I am not interested in anything easy. I do things with immense force'–Helena Carratala (formerly Guerrero)

By Bea Valdes
Contributor

PHILOSOPHER Queen, is this Helena? She is filled with stories, the kind that bleed into the next and the next. A memory flashing backward, hooking unto a tangent feeling from yesterday; an image from an adventure awakened, then brushing up against a remembrance of the smell of a street. Yielding to her tales, I encounter that first exhilarating breath, that intoxication from a challenge, the scent of possibility, possibility in its radiant multitude. Helena, with the ever-percolating ideas, can unfurl potential. She is a catalyst for drama and for dreaming, with her crazy passion, (or is she just passionately crazy?).

She is sitting across me, negotiating a salad.

Helena Carratala came to the Philippines from her native Barcelona, into the flurry of political rallies in 1969. She remembers stepping off the plane, wearing a micro mini skirt, sky-scraping platform heels and a platinum bob. A Spanish Twiggy, just 18 years old ("more sophisticated than most teenagers"), a fresh college graduate and newly married (to Xavier Roces Guerrero). She was, in many ways, a woman on the verge. She may have appeared like a vision; in time, she would prove to be truly visionary.

She was the foreigner, but it was Manila that got a culture shock. She would challenge hemlines and unhinge conventions, taking the zeitgeist by the horns.

Limbo

It has been said that a person has two birthplaces: one is the place where he is born, the other is "a place of predilection, where you wake up to reality."

Suddenly engulfed in her husband's large family, Helena was introduced to Filipino society, its ultra-conservative tenets, its matriarchal structure, and the net of family rituals that now embraced her. Lost in translation , circa 1969, she found herself delivered unto language limbo as she only spoke French and Spanish. But with gestures punctuating her fragmented speech, she always got her point across.

On her first excursion to Quiapo, she came home beaming with pride in what she considered wonderful beaded *bakya* (wooden shoes). She went clattering around Manila, the subject of perplexed, bemused and slightly scandalized stares. She was told it was not appropriate footwear, that it was too *"palengke"* (plebeian). With characteristic sass, she refused to give it up. The footwear became an ethical spectacle.

Serendipitous

Her being multilingual proved serendipitous since, in the early 1970s, a translator and assistant was needed for a certain young French designer who had just moved to Manila to set up the Pierre Cardin Boutique in Malate. His name was Jean-Paul Gaultier.

Laughing, Helena recalls going into his small shop. With her hair, a tangle of curls, coming down to the hips, she looked like a hippie version of the Virgin Mary. "I had no eyebrows, and with this kabuki make-up ... Jean Paul saw me from afar ... he would have hired me even if I did not speak any French!"

At that time, the future *enfant terrible* of French fashion was very conservative and she admits she was "much crazier than he was ... I was already out of the closet!"

Gaultier had come from a very old-fashioned family. He had learned his design methodology from the French couture houses, which observed rigid codes. Helena entered into a collaboration with him that encouraged him to take things a step further. He would fit everything on her, and she would say: "Oh, Jean-Paul, this is too long, make it shorter ... or maybe the waist should be tighter. Oh, Jean-Paul, maybe this neckline should plunge."

He loved her for her daring.

When he was about to leave Manila, he insisted that she go into fashion herself.

"I can't draw," she protested. He replied: "I'll teach you."

In the last six months prior to his departure, he would come to her house after work and explain how to illustrate, how to drape fabric, how to build a collection. What he emphasized was: "The ultimate art is the dress you make and not the drawing."

Birth

Azabache was born. As with everything that Helena does, she did it to the extreme, running things on overdrive. Azabache is Spanish for, not just black, but the deepest jet black, a favorite color.

"Being very young, I didn't have any inhibitions, I did not know much about fashion, about business, but I had this sense of invincibility," she explains. So when she was advised that there was no way she could sell black clothes in Manila, she set out to do just that.

Her first collection was presented in 1974, a time when style trickled down from images churned out by Parisian haute couture houses. But she has never been a wave rider. Ever the iconoclast, Helena took her inspiration from the opposite end of the spectrum, becoming one of the earliest advocates of street fashion. She began experimenting with curtain fabric, with *malong* and any other material that was "not meant for a dress." She then began dyeing local cheese cloth in her backyard. She explored her fascination and affection for "normal people, those on the street. I love the *banig*, the *bakya*, the *patadyong*." As she says this, she is unconsciously rubbing imaginary fiber between her fingers. "Close to the earth, you know."

Once again, her materials of choice were considered too *"palengke."* But a handful of society girls began seeking her out. Mary Anne Tinio, Chona Kasten, Ting Ting Cojuangco, Elvira Manahan represented the budding band of avant-garde.

"They would do things with immense force. I don't like to do anything mediocre. Now, I am becoming a professional political activist." She has lived in Barcelona, Congo, the Philippines and New York. She left Manila in 1982, and currently lives in Long Island, New York with her American husband. There, she has continued her philanthropic work, fighting for the rights of low-income immigrants.

She is also working on architectural restoration in Cuba, Havana being one of her favorite cities. She has involved herself in entrepreneurial projects for the women there. She finds that Cuba mirrors the Philippines' socio-economic problems 20 years ago. In the Philippines, she had cultivated cottage industries, organizing whole villages in Batangas for embroidery and in Marikina for shoemaking. "The other day," she says, "I was in the market and I saw all these wonderful shells. It would be great to make them into jewelry, using Filipino products, made by Filipino hands."

Asked what her current artistic outlet is, she says: "My life is my own creation, I am multi-faceted. Whether I am making a gown or a salad, it comes from the same creative force. I am my own art, in that sense." Her children are in the same orbit, it seems. "My first son is an artist, a screenwriter; my daughter, too, is an artist; and my youngest American boy," she sighs, not without pride, "he is a graffiti artist. He is always getting arrested."

Memories

At the moment, her time is devoted to politics and poetry. And trying to finish her novel. A peek reveals fact beneath the sinews of fiction.

She explains a central idea: Genetic memories is like haunting from long ago, something beyond inherited chromosomes; the possibility that our genes carry traces of our forefathers' lives. Their loves, their longings, their losses, their deep experiences, are as much a part of us as the color of their eyes.

In her own journeys, she seems to find the same socio-economic landscape over and over. Growing up in Barcelona, she always knew that she would someday find her way into the Philippines. She had heard stories of relatives who had lived here almost a century ago. This molten city had left an indelible mark on their history. She came to Manila to place her stamp on it, to play the pied piper and ignite the whirlwind.

For comments and suggestions e-mail: loane17@yahoo.com.

PHOTO: Patrick Uy
PICTORIAL DIRECTION: Antonio Salac Santos
HAIR AND MAKEUP: Dennis Tan
COSMETICS: Christian Dior, Rustan's

DIOR'S acid green eyes make the spotlight shine on ballerina Toni Lopez Gonzalez.

BLUE and violet shades with silver highlights make the eyes look smokey and glowing. Fuchsia intensifies the natural lip color.

Clown paint no more

THIS season's makeup harks back to the look of the '70s—dewy skin, blue and green lids and pink lipstick. In those days, these colors looked like clown paint. With the advancement in technology, makeup tones are intensified or subdued. The most shocking colors such as bright lavender, hot orange and citrus come in sheer textures that can be controlled by your hands. This look is complemented by several coats of mascara.

Christian Dior's palette features neon colors for the eyes, such as lime green, contrasted with sheer pink or fuchsia gloss for the lips.

The new twist is on the smokey eye. Prestige Cosmetics has come up with the nautical look—navy eye shadow and liner with a natural silvery powder for highlight. This creates cool lightness and depth. With dark eyes in focus, the lips are brushed with lip gloss that is close to the natural lip color instead of a matte lipstick.

Tropical heat wave

Looking good need not be expensive, says Ricky Reyes

CELEBRITY hairdresser Ricky Reyes swears by his strategy of guaranteeing high-quality services in beautiful surroundings at affordable prices.

"Looking good need not be expensive," says Reyes. Indeed, clients are surprised when they are charged only P180 for a shampoo and blow-dry in such tony places as Ricky Reyes Salon in Glorietta 1 and Beauty Central in Greenhills.

As president of the Asia Pacific Hair Association, Reyes gets first crack at the latest technology in the business.

"I know what women like and dislike," says Reyes. Since relaxed curls are hot this year, all his salons offer Heat Wave, the latest perming method that leaves the hair smelling clean and looking naturally curly. The procedure includes a protein treatment to prevent damage and an advanced hair perming formula for smooth curls. Strands of hair are wrapped with modern curling rods and are set under an infrared heating machine.

The result: softly rolled ringlets that are loosened with the fingers and misted with hair spray. Reyes says women can also use styling gum and sculpting clay from his own hair-care line.

The fragrant boudoir

CLASSIC luxury is the latest trend in the bathroom and boudoir scene. Think antique armoires and roll-top baths. Crabtree & Evelyn suggests scenting your drawers, armoires and wardrobes using new drawer liners with motifs of lavender sprigs or pink rosebuds. Hang your clothes on scented padded hangers. They also keep the clothes in mint condition. Freshen up the bathroom with pure cotton towels with lace trimmings.

Crabtree and Evelyn stores are located at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, SM Megamall A and Robinsons Place.

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From Hot Wheels-Red Hot

Prizes for World Racers

Billed as the largest,super exciting track competition ever, the Highway 35 World Race is the centerpiece of Toy Kingdom's spectacular line-up of summer events.

On-going until April 30 at selected Toy branches, the competition highlights, the impressive collection of mini race cars under the world-renowned Hot Wheels label.

Who qualifies

The World Race is open -

(1) Children 6 -12 years. Participants in this age group belong to the **Junior Category;** and

(2) Older Children, 13 years old and above; and adults who are Hot Wheels collectors and/or track hobbyists are grouped under the **Senior Category.**

To register, interested individuals must purchase any Hot Wheels product worth P150 or above at any Toy Kingdom branch.

Registration tickets must be kept until the contest proper and cannot be used for other contest venues.

Exciting Prizes

Winners in both categories have spectacular prizes awaiting them; including cash prizes, trophies and loot bags.

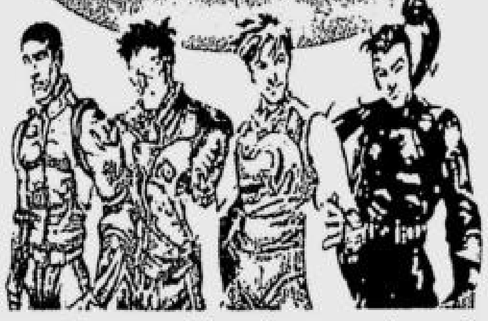
Competition dates and venues

Team	Date	Venue
Street Breed	April 17	Toy Kingdom Megamall
Scorchers	April 24	Toy Kingdom Southmall
Grand Finals	May 2	Toy Kingdom Megamall

*All participants must be at the contest venue before 2:30pm

Besides the main racing event, other exciting activities are sure to attract the attention of World Race fans and Toy Kingdom patrons, Among these:

Pose for FREE after the movie



After watching the premiere of the red-hot Highway 35 flick, children and their parents may pose for free with the life-size figures of Highway 35 Movie characters displayed at the Hot Wheels area in selected Toy Kingdom branches.

Collectors' Corner

Snake Funny Car Plymouth

Shift Kicker

Ferrari Enzo

Ford Mustang Funny Car

Le Mott

2 Cool

Hyper Liner

'69 Dodge Charger

'Dodge Neon

Toy Kingdom's showcases a rare collection of Hot Wheels die-casts. The special section also displays a wide range of Hot Wheels merchandise in diorama.

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Hot Wheels HIGHWAY 35

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the longest, super exciting

WORLD RACE

April 1-30

Open to Kids

- 6-12 years (junior category)
- 13 years and up (senior category)

To register, simply present proof of purchase worth P150

Grand Prize **P10,000 cash**

plus **Hotwheels Certificate & Loot Bags**

Special Award **P4,000 cash**

plus **Hotwheels Trophy**

Grand Finals: May 2, 2004 Toy Kingdom, Megamall

Winners will be awarded by celebrity guest Mr. Mark Heras of Star Struck

Plus!

Visit the exhibit of rare Hotwheels Collection at the Hotwheels Museum

Pose for souvenir shot beside the life-size characters of Highway 35 Movie

Watch the premier showing of Highway 35 at Toy Kingdom Megamall on May 2

Free
World Race Info Magazine for every P300 single purchase of Hot Wheels item March 15 - May 30

Hot Wheels HIGHWAY 35
April 1-30
STARTER
MATTEL

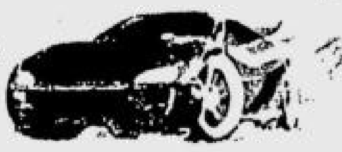
see mechanics poster for details

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible], Series of 2004

SM MEGAMALL SM SOUTHMALL SM CITY CEBU SM CITY FAIRVIEW SM CITY BACOOR SM CITY ILOILO SM CITY DAVAO SM CITY PAMPANGA SM CITY LUCENA SM CITY BAGUIO SM CITY MARILAO

Once upon a speedway

(or how the Highway 35 World Race began)



Thousand of years ago, an advance race of being called Accelerons built an amazing network of speedways that wrapped around the world. When disaster struck, they hid these twisting, looping tracks in another dimension leaving their powerful engineering feat out of the reaches of ordinary mortals.

Later, in a time much closer to our own, an eccentric scientist named Peter Tezla discovered the network of roads and dubbed it Highway 35.

Unable to navigate the tracks himself, Tezla organized a competition. He gathered 35 of the World's greatest race car drivers, provided them with super-powered engines, and offered huge sums of money to those who first cross the finish line.

The race winners must then embark on a perilous journey to retrieve the Flame of Power. The racers, with their enemies tailgating them must negotiate five incredibly rough terrains that would lead them to the spectacular Hot Wheels City where the ultimate mystery of Highway 35 would be finally and fully revealed.

Practice Sessions

Practice sessions will be conducted five (5) days before the actual race. From Monday to Friday children can practice their own Hot Wheels on the actual tracks. To qualify for the practice sessions, participants must abide by the following mechanics:

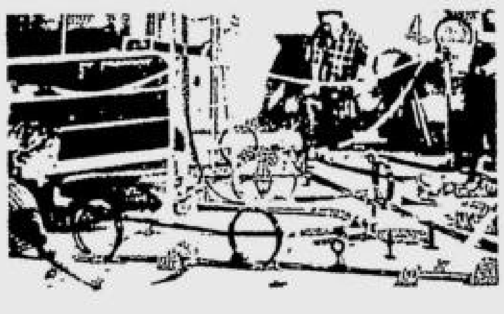
(1) Customers must first purchase any die-cast car from the merchandise area of Toy Kingdom.

(2) While inside the Toy Kingdom premises, customers must be reminded to keep their receipts for security purposes.

(3) The purchase requirements for the practice session is good only from the date sold and until the closing store hours of Toy Kingdom. If the customer wishes to come back the following day, another purchase will be required to enter the practice area.

(4) Customers who bring their own die-cast cars, will still be required to purchase any die-cast car for them to be allowed inside the practice area.

(5) If a customer buys (2) two die-cast cars, he/she automatically gets a registration ticket, but is only allowed to practice on the date it was sold.



Before a contestant can compete and race the whole track, each contestant should pass the

Qualifying Rounds

Upon registration, each contestant will have to go through a qualifying stretch.The first ten (10) contestants of each category with the least time consumed going through the qualifying stretch, advance to the elimination round, (Junior and Senior at 10 each).

Grand Finals

The winners in the elimination rounds will compete against each other for the Best Team Award.

A team must consist of 10 members (junior and senior). If the team lacks members, one of the members will race his car twice.

All contestants will be timed and at the end of the race of each team, the total time consumed by the team will be their official time. The team with the least time consumed will be declared the Highway 35 Champions.

Hot Wheels enthusiasts of all ages and the general public are invited to join the exciting Highway 35 World Race activities at Toy Kingdom Megamall and Southmall now thru April 30.

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY Special

Editor **Nestor U. Torre** • *Assistant Editor* **Rito P. Asilo**

Stiles gets fairy tale treatment

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—"The Prince & Me," in which Julia Stiles plays an American who falls in love with the prince of Denmark, is just begging for "Hamlet" puns—something about spreading compost on the weeds to make them ranker, perhaps, or how fluffy romantic comedies like this come not in single spies but in battalions.

(It follows two other young-love-in-Europe movies recently aimed at teens and tweens: "Chasing Liberty," with Mandy Moore, and "The Lizzie McGuire Movie," starring Hilary Duff.)

Despite its cliches, which spiral wildly out of control as the film approaches its overdue conclusion, "The Prince & Me" doesn't really deserve to suffer such critical slings and arrows.

JULIA Stiles, left, romances Luke Mably in "The Prince and Me."

Zombie movie

That's mainly because of Stiles' intelligence and presence, and the chemistry she shares with her charismatic co-star, Luke Mably, a young Paul Newman look-alike who previously played a soldier in last year's fabulous zombie movie, "28 Days Later."

Stiles stars as Paige Morgan, a University of Wisconsin pre-med student who's focused on getting into Johns Hopkins and going on to treat underprivileged patients around the world.

Mably plays Edvard, the crown prince of Denmark, an impudent party boy who shirks his royal responsibilities in favor of the United States after seeing an ad for a "Girls Gone Wild"-style video about Wisconsin women.

We know they'll meet, but director Martha Coolidge—who's lost her edge since "Valley Girl" and "Real Genius" two decades ago—puts them on a collision course with each other. Paige races the pickup truck from her dad's dairy farm down a country road, while Edvard, an ocean away, races his BMW through the Danish countryside just for sport.

Incognito

Once in Wisconsin—where Edvard goes by Eddie in an attempt to be incognito, despite the constant presence of his valet, Soren (Ben Miller)—the prince and Paige clash instantly (of course). But they end up reluctantly bonding while working together at the campus pub and helping each other with their studies.

Less than an hour into the movie, the four screenwriters wedge in a Shakespeare reference too heavy-handed to be clever.

Paige proclaims that "Shakespeare is so useless," and complains to Eddie about having to read a play about the whiny prince of Denmark.

The other joke is that Stiles made her name with films that contemporized Shakespeare: "10 Things I Hate About You," a high school version of "The Taming of the Shrew"; "O," which was "Othello" among basketball players; and the high-tech "Hamlet" in which she played Ophelia opposite Ethan Hawke.

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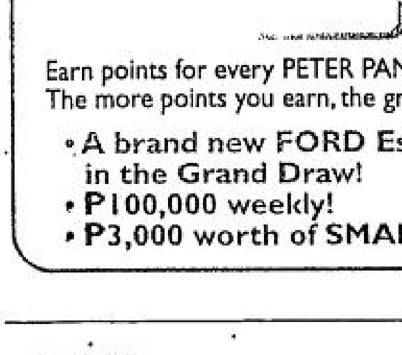

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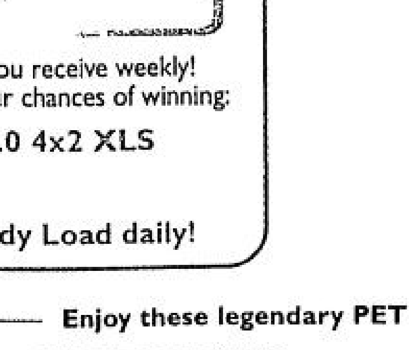

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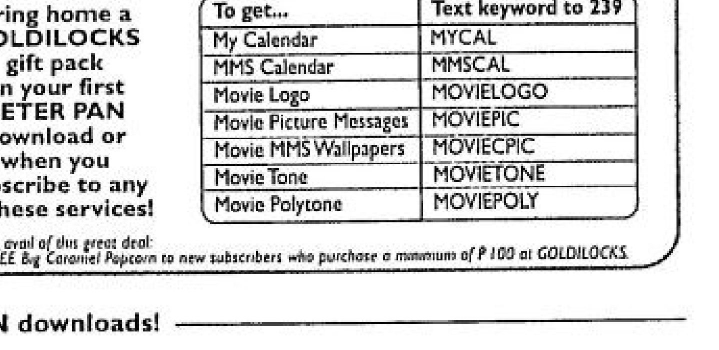

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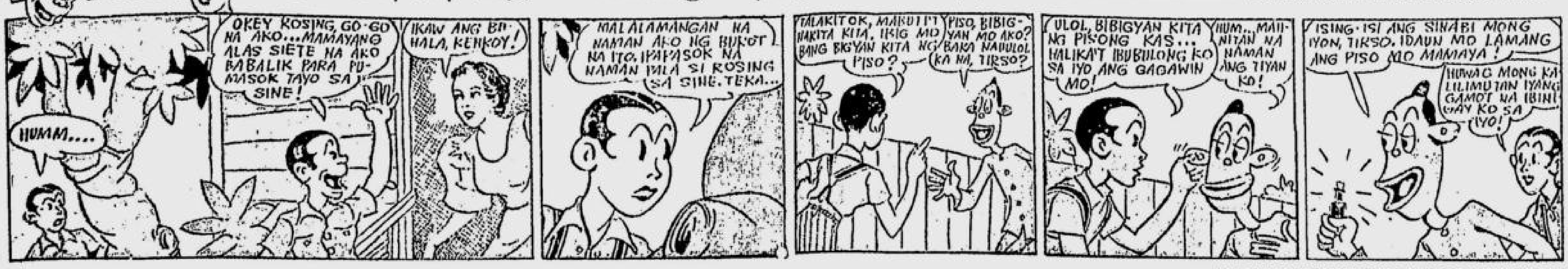
OKEY KOSING, GO-GO NA AKO... MAMAYANG ALAS SIETE NA AKO BABALIK PARA PUMASOK TAYO SA SINE!
HUMM....
IKAW ANG BAHALA, KENKOY!
MAL ALAMANGAN NA NAMAN AKO NG BUKOT NA ITO. IPAPASOK NA NAMAN PALA SI ROSING SA SINE. TEKA...
TALAKITOK, MABUTI'T NAKITA KITA. IBIG MO BANG BIGYAN KITA NG PISO?
PISO, BIBIGYAN MO AKO? BAKA NAUULOL KA NA, TIRSO?
ULOL, BIBIGYAN KITA NG PISONG KAS... HALIKA'T IBUBULONG KO SA IYO ANG GAGAWIN MO!
HUM... MAIINITAN NA NAMAN ANG TIYAN KO!
ISING-ISI ANG SINABI MONG IYON, TIRSO. IDAUN MO LAMANG ANG PISO MO MAMAYA!
HUWAG MONG KALILIMUTAN IYANG GAMOT NA IBINIGAY KO SA IYO!

MAGTAGUMPAY KAYA SI TIRSO? ITUTULOY

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM APRIL 17 - APRIL 23

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	25	29
[illegible]	6:00 Star in A Million 6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:30 Home Along da Airport 9:00 Victim 9:30 Buttercup 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	6:00 National Geographic 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 Sing Galing 10:00 Lente 11:00 ABC Treats *Living with Michael Jackson*	6:00 Starstruck Kids 7:00 Imbestigador 8:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 9:30 Kakabakaba Adventures 10:30 Celebrity Turns 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	6:00 Opinyon at Desisiyon 7:00 Bilag 7:30 9-Ball Tirador 9:00 Nina 10:00 String of Hearts 11:00 Iyo ang Katarungan	6:00 Baywatch 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 The Amazing Race 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deel	6:00 Agila Reports 6:30 Screen Savers 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Car Guys 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Pasugo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
[illegible]	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Tanging Ina 9:30 24 10:00 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 15th Mitsubishi Lancer Int'l Juniors Tennis Championships 9:00 Go For Gold 11:00 Unlimited Diving	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 Viva Cine Idols *Markadong Hudas* 11:00 ABC Onstage *Trip ni John*	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 May Puso ang Balas 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 URRC TV	6:00 Home Shopping Network 7:00 Japan Video Topics 10:00 In this Corner 11:00 MTV Filler 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Sponge Bob 6:30 Mr Bean 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Spin City 8:30 Just Shoot Me 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The West Wing 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Crossing Over with John	6:00 Captured 6:30 Fresh Gear 7:00 Convergence 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 New Yankee Workshop 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Ang Iglesia ni Cristo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Star Circle Quest 8:00 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:30 Marina 9:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:30 It Might Be You 10:00 OK Fine! Whatever 11:00 Insider 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Dial M	6:00 American Idol 7:00 Gagsters 8:00 Friends 8:30 Single 9:00 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 9:30 Buhay Beauty Queen 10:00 INQ TV 10:15 Big News 11:00 Fireworks	6:15 24 Oras 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Twin Hearts 8:00 Te Amo 8:30 Love Letter 9:00 Hanggang Kailan 9:30 Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9:00 The Agency 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 Alcuer	8:00 NBA 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 The Chronicle 7:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time	6:00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Convergence 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Pasugo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
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Ma-Yi does it again with 'Wave'

By Nestor U. Torre

GREAT theater news from New York: the Ma-Yi Theater Company, with Filipinos Jorge Ortoll and Ralph Peña at the helm, has scored a hit with its current production, "Wave," written by Sung Rno and directed by Will Pomerantz.

The play was the subject of a rave review in the New York Times, which describes it as an extended improvisation on "Medea." Excerpts: "Mr. Rno has created his own passionate theater myth, as much from cyberspace, physics and celebrity as from murder and family vengeance."

"The playwright has fused the everyday American reality of a housewife on the verge of a nervous breakdown with the vision of a guilty yet cunning murderer. When M's husband begins an affair with his leading lady in a new film musical, she prepares a dazzling revenge.

Wildly unpredictable

"Mr. Rno's imagination vaults past the usual traps of adaptations. He creates wildly unpredictable figures, including outrageous television personalities who hold forth on Asian-American culture.

"Under Pomerantz's direction, the play pulses along. Mr. (Ron) Domingo (a Filipino) nails Jason's shallow courtesy and frightening self-absorption."

The play is about Jason, a Korean computer techno-freak who has been tapped to star in a musical film.

His wife, M, has become a recluse. To flee Seoul together, she and her husband stole her family's ancient treasure, and she even killed her brother. Jason has forgotten and now concentrates on attaining his American dream; she can't.

Aside from the play's artistic and commercial success in the highly-competitive New York theater scene, we are impressed with how Ma-Yi has diversified its essence and impact through the years, from a focus on Fil-Am material early on, to a more general, US-Asian perspective.

Production credits

This is evident in the production credits of "Wave," which list aside from executive director Ortoll and artistic director Peña, sets by Marsha Ginsberg, costumes by Carol Bailey, lighting by Joel Moritz, sound by Nick Borisjuk, and actors Ron Domingo, Michi Barall, Deborah S. Craig, Paul H. Juhn, Patrick McNulty and Aaron Yoo. —How international can you get?

This is all to the good, because the American-Asian ethos is so rich and textured that the artistry of many different people from various backgrounds is needed to meet the demands of the complex cultural experience that Ma-Yi now seeks to encompass.

It is hoped, though, that another major Fil-Am work after "The Romance of Magno Rubio," will soon be staged by Ma-Yi.

More good news

Incidentally, there's more good news about that hit play: After its successful run at the CCP last year with its New York cast, "Magno Rubio" will be staged again here later this year, with a cast of Manila-based actors.

We suggested this to Ortoll as a way to save on expensive airfare, and we're glad that it's being done. We assured Ortoll that the best of our actors here will do full justice to the play.

We also urged Ortoll to arrange for the visit here of outstanding Fil-Am playwright Han Ong (winner of the prestigious McArthur "Genius" Award), and we trust that, this too, will eventually come to pass. Meanwhile, congratulations to Ma-Yi for its latest success!

ORTOLL. The Asian theater group's executive director.

DOMINGO. His performance was cited by the New York Times.

The fly and the bee

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

WHICH would you rather be—a fly or a bee? Before you answer the question, let me share a true story that I heard from a friend:

Several years ago, my spiritual teacher asked my friend to take care of a person who was just beginning his spiritual journey.

After two months, my teacher asked: "How is this person doing now?"

My friend replied, "He thinks he knows everything! It is truly difficult to teach someone like him—he is neither diligent nor serious about learning."

Imperfections

After another six months, my teacher again inquired: "How is the person doing?"

After careful thought, my friend soberly replied, "I realize that I have simply been complaining. I have dwelt on his imperfections instead of his strengths, and thus, I have become less compassionate. I have failed to help him."

My teacher said, "Now, you can be a bee instead of a fly. A fly is very much attracted to stool and rotting food. It lands on people's open wounds and sores.

"A bee, however, is not like that at all. It is attracted to nectars of flowers, and produces honey out of them." Then, my teacher stroked my friend on the forehead and smiled upon seeing the change in my friend's heart.

A bee or a fly? The choice is ours. The choice we make will determine how we relate with others.

Concern

Concern does not mean closing our eyes to truth and reality. We need to see a person's good and bad side in order to help him.

If we want to be a caring person, we must learn how to be like the bee. We must develop the vision to see the inner heart, the inherent goodness of a person. A person may have bad traits, but they can easily be washed away once their illusions are dispelled—and love can shine again from his heart.

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

NU alumni . . .

From page D4

TV as "shows that feed viewers a steady dose of humiliation, fear and rejection, while taking jobs and airtime away from writers."

Sitcom writers

Especially hard-hit have been sitcom writers. Still, the NU alumni are doing better than most others. They share that TV writing fees these days range from a starting salary of $2,900 a week for 40 weeks a year, all the way up to $50,000 per episode for 22 shows a year.

As for freelance TV directors, they make $30,000 to $40,000 per episode, which usually means a week of work for sitcoms, and a month for dramas. Creators of shows also get back-end profits after a series turns out to be a hit. —Nice work, *if* you can get it!

Stiles . . .

From page D1

As Paige struggles with sonnets, Eddie advises her: "You're being too literal—don't just go for the obvious."

The filmmakers should have followed those same words of wisdom.

We know that they'll fall for each other and that she'll feel deceived once his true identity is revealed—which happens when the paparazzi chase them around campus, one of the film's few brushes with reality.

We also know that she'll end up with him back in Denmark—to the dismay of his traditional mother, the queen (Miranda Richardson)—and that she'll undergo a "Pretty Woman"-style makeover.

Julia Roberts wanted the fairy tale part in that movie, and she got it. Paige gets it, too—in a way that makes Richard Gere's wooing through the limousine sun roof look positively understated by comparison.

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NU alumni are in great demand in Hollywood

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN we were taking our master's degree courses at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, USA, we would periodically see talent scouts from Hollywood sizing up our classmates at the university's famous School of Speech.

Good reputation

The departments in that school had developed such a good reputation for turning out well-trained actors and production people that theater, TV and film producers wanted to get the first crack at that treasure trove of promising young talents.

Northwestern graduates are in even greater demand today. An article in the Spring 2004 issue of the university's quarterly magazine ticks off the NU alumni who call the shots at a number of hit TV productions today.

Many have created their own TV series, work as executive producers, and write scripts for their "babies."

They include Cindy Chupack on "Sex and the City" and "The Sopranos," Greg Berlanti on the WB drama, "Everwood," David Hollander of the CBS drama, "The Guardian," Robert Borden of ABC's sitcom, "George Lopez," Betsy Thomas of the WB comedy, "Run of the House," Terri Minsky of the Disney Channel's "Lizzie McGuire," Mara Brock Akil of UPN's comedy, "Girlfriends," and Richard Lewis of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation."

CHUPACK, inset left, with cast of "Sex and the City."

Driver

They're at the top of their respective worlds now, but they all paid their dues before the hits started coming. Perry Rein, a consulting producer on ABC's "Married to the Kellys" spent his first three years in Hollywood working as Al Pacino's driver!

But he used even that menial job creatively to further his career. He found a co-writer who turned out to be Harrison Ford's nanny, and together they ended up writing for "Friends"!

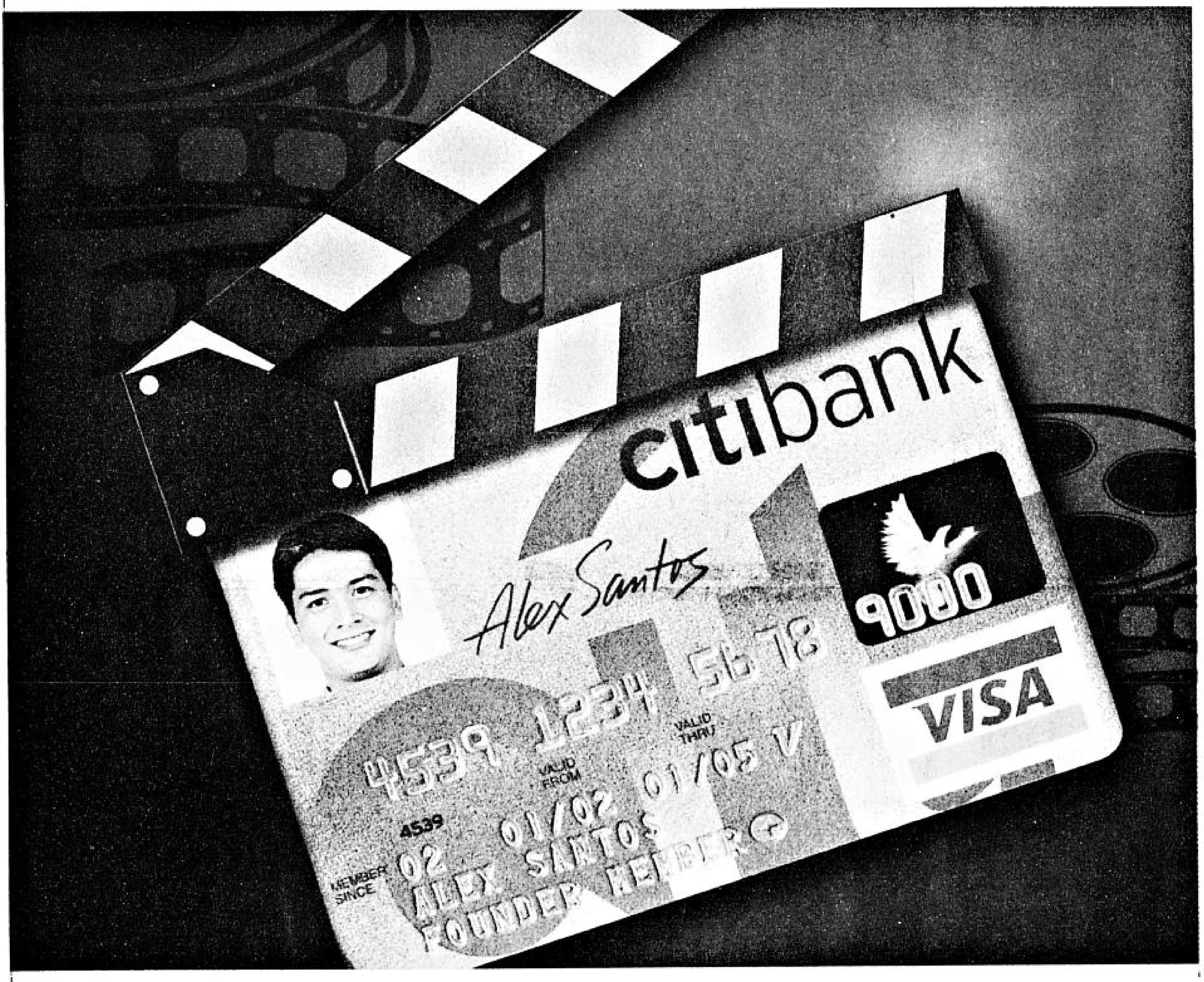
Hit sitcom

For her part, Cindy Chupack is happy that she's been with "Sex and the City" for years. But she complains that writing for the hit sitcom has taken over her life so totally that she even goes out on dates just to get new material for the show! Well, now that "Sex" is winding down, her dates can become less utilitarian!

Collectively, the NU alumni observe that the "explosion" of cable channels has caused major changes in TV work: show content is less restricted, the heretofore mass audience has become fragmented, and everyone has to contend with the massive popularity of reality television.

An alumnus describes reality

NU/ D3



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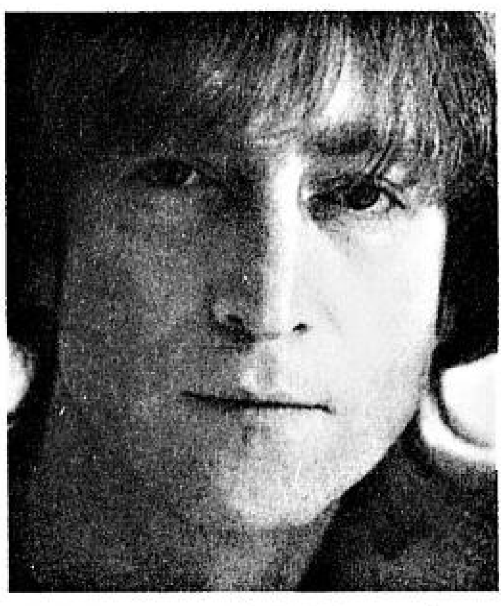
LENNON. Impressed with McCartney's knowledge of rock 'n roll lyrics.

When John Lennon met Paul McCartney

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM Joseph Nagalos of Pasay: **"How did the Beatles meet?"**

The concept of "American Idol" and "Star Search" isn't really new to TV. Even the Beatles, long before they decided to keep their group's final name, tried their luck in a talent search. The show: Liverpool, England's "TV Star Search." Their group's name: The Quarry Men Skiffle.

During a 1957 church gig (yes, you read it right), John Lennon was introduced to Paul McCartney by a former member of Quarry when the group had a different name (Black Jacks). John was impressed with Paul's ability to tune a guitar and his knowledge of rock 'n roll lyrics.

First single

Three months later, McCartney made his debut with the group (which included George Harrison and John Lowe). Then, the Quarry Men Skiffle recorded their first single, a cover of Buddy Holly's "That'll Be The Day," flipsided with Harrison and McCartney's "In Spite of All the Danger."

In 1959, Lennon, McCartney and Harrison. (as Johnny and the Moondogs) made the finals of "TV Star Search."

The following year, the group renamed itself the Beatals, and later, the Silver Beetles. Stuart Sutcliffe, Tommy Moore and Pete Best joined and then left the group. Finally, Ringgo Starr substituted for Best, and stayed on.

In 1961, The Beatles made its debut in Liverpool. However, when the group backed Tony Sheridan on the single, "My Bonnie," they were billed as "Tony Sheridan and the Beat Brothers" when the record was released in Germany, because the word "Beatles" was deemed too risqué—it sounded like "peedles," which was a German slang for penis!

NVC announces 'Cabaret' auditions

For its 10th year anniversary presentation, the New Voice Company brings to Manila the year's most anticipated musical, Kander and Ebb's "Cabaret." The film version starred Liza Minnelli and Joel Grey, and was recently revived by Tony winners Natasha Richardson and Alan Cumming on Broadway.

NVC announces auditions on May 1 and 8, Saturday, 1-5 p.m., for the new version as reimagined by director Sam Mendes ("American Beauty," "The Road to Perdition") and co-director Rob Marshall ("Chicago").

The "Cabaret" casting call is open to actors and actresses 18 years old and above who can act, sing and move. Prepare two songs (minus-one or *a cappella*) that will showcase your singing range and acting ability. Bring resumé and 3x5 photos. "Cabaret" will open on Nov. 5 at the Music Museum. We will be co-directing it with Monique Wilson. Call NVC Actors Studio at 896-6695, or e-mail at nvc@pacific.net.ph.

SATURDAY Special

McCARTNEY. Wants to follow in Disney's footsteps. REUTERS

McCartney has a passion for animation

NEW YORK—Paul McCartney has a wish to follow in Walt Disney's footsteps by making a beautiful feature-length animation film.

McCartney, who has had the dream since his days with the Beatles, takes what he hopes will be a big step toward his goal with "Paul McCartney: The Music and Animation Collection," which was released on DVD early this week.

The DVD contains three exquisitely animated musical shorts made in collaboration with director Geoff Dunbar, along with interviews and behind-the-scenes looks at the painstaking craft, and fun, of creating a musical animation.

Ambition

"My ambition in the '60s was to make a feature. I don't know why I wanted to, but I just loved it so much. It is a passion," McCartney said.

"I remember saying to the other Beatles, 'I'd love to do it some day,'' and them saying to me, 'Then do it!'"

McCartney began pursuing the hobby more than 20 years ago and has been creating characters, writing the stories, consulting on the look, doing the voices, composing the music and, of course, singing the songs on the short animations done in the old Disney style of individual cell drawings.

"The big new thing that we want to do is to finally fulfill the ambition of making a feature," said McCartney, who is working on a story idea he hopes to turn into a children's book, and then a full-length film.

McCartney and the other three Beatles were featured in "Yellow Submarine," the animated film that was a hit during their heyday. They provided the music but were not the designers of that psychedelic-era movie.

McCartney, 61, said he came to love animation growing up in Liverpool, England, where he immersed himself in the animated feature films of Disney.

Magical world

"You could lose yourself in it, it's a magical world, really," he said. "I just always loved that stuff as a kid." The DVD features Rupert the Bear in "Rupert and the Frog Song," Wirral the Squirrel in "Tropic Island Hum," and a community of frogs in a fantastical frolic in "Tuesday," based on a book by David Wiesner.

McCartney's Rupert animation was already a success in Britain as the top-selling video of 1985, accompanied by the chart hit, "We All Stand Together." Wirral, a squirrel with a Liverpool accent, escapes hunters and finds refuge on an animals' island paradise. Sir George Martin, the longtime Beatles producer, arranged the music for the short.

"Disney was a great infiltrator," said McCartney, a champion of animal rights. "He was against cruelty to animals." He cited "Bambi," "Dumbo," "The Fox and the Hound," and "The Jungle Book" as consciousness raisers, but named "Lady and the Tramp" as his all-time Disney favorite.

Now, McCartney is looking forward to a new adventure.

"Releasing this DVD is a first step. Then, we'll see how the book does, and then the film," he said.

McCartney is certainly accustomed to successful ventures. A British tabloid published a list last month that put Sir Paul's fortune at $1.3 billion—more than the combined wealth of fellow-rockers Elton John, Mick Jagger and Madonna.

"People say, 'Why do you do it? Why are you still working?'" McCartney said.

"For me, it's playing!" *Reuters*

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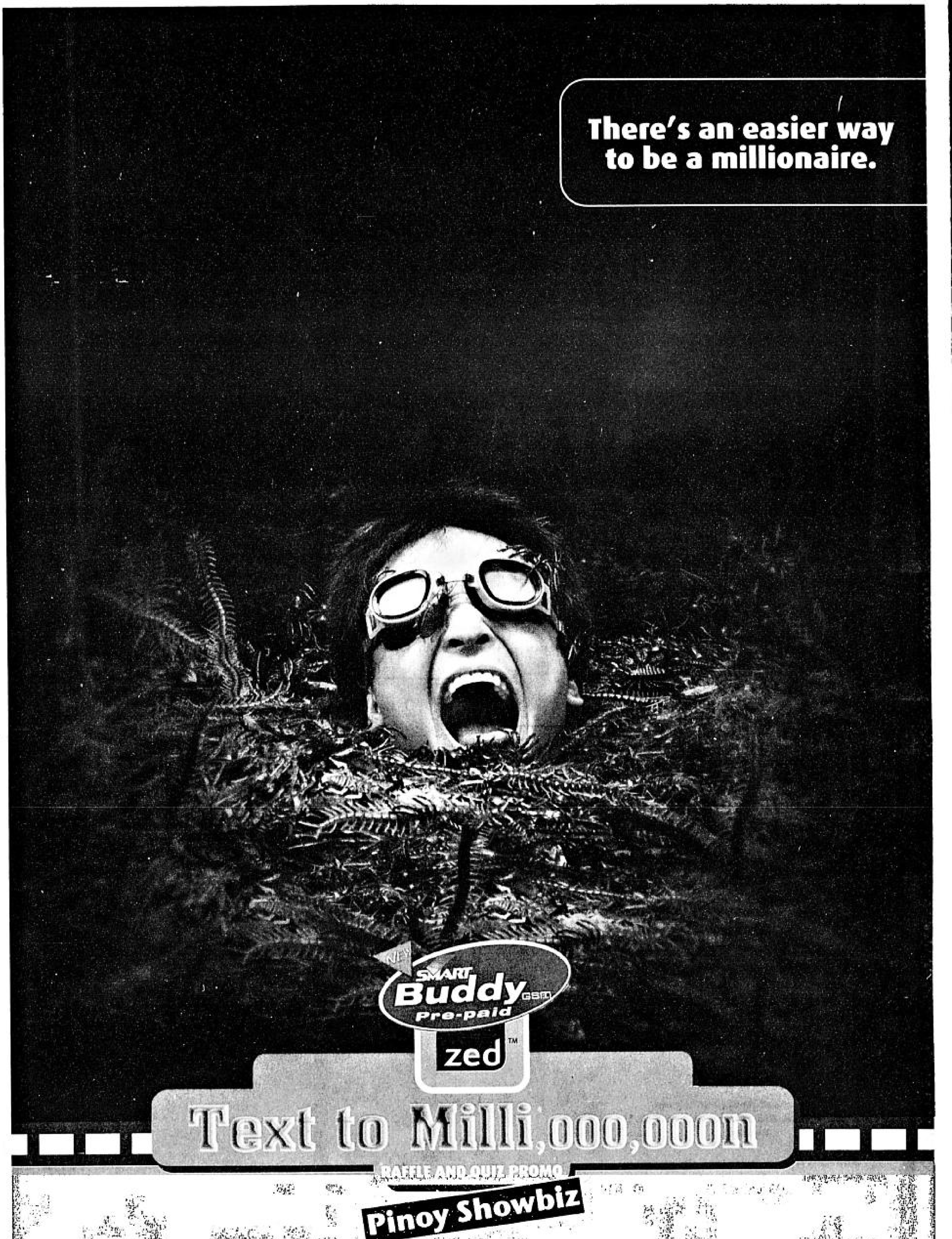

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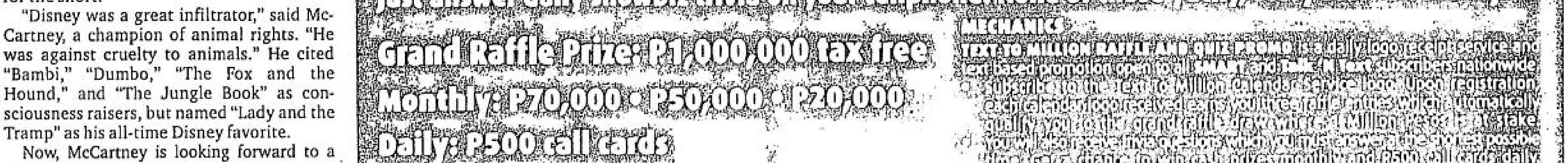

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By Rito P. Asilo

THIS week, Rufa Mae Quinto and her singing friends share the box-office pie with Peter Pan and Hook, Ben Affleck and Uma Thurman, Ewan McGregor and Tim Burton, Ashley Judd and Angelina Jolie (and their respective serial killers)—and an acacia tree. Your choices this week:

"Big Fish"
D: Tim Burton
S: Ewan McGregor, Jessica Lange

Burton delivers his most poignant movie to date in this touching and charming fantastical tale about a dying father (the charismatic Ewan McGregor and the marvelous Albert Finney as the young and old Edward Bloom, respectively) and his detached son (Billy Crudup), his adoring wife (the beautiful Lange), and the people who inhabit the legends and myths created by the father.

The son, wary of his father's tall tales, has to deal with interweaving facts and fiction, and recreate them to understand a father he hardly knows.

The director finally finds a remarkable script, based on Daniel Wallace's novel, that gives justice to his visual imagination and technical mastery, and humanizes his out-of-this-world images. The must-see movie of the week.

"Twisted"
D: Philip Kaufman
S: Ashley Judd, Andy Garcia

Like last week's "Taking Lives" (which starred another talented beauty, Angelina Jolie), Kaufman's film is about a police profiler (Judd) who tracks down clues left by a serial killer. This time, though, it's the men she engages in one-night-stands with who end up bludgeoned.

Suddenly, the alcoholic protagonist, who just can't resist keeping her pants on, finds herself the prime suspect of the investigation she's heading. The movie serves up a few scares, but you'd think the director of "Quills" and "Henry and June" would know how to weave a yarn devoid of the tired, predictable and repetitive elements of the suspense-thriller genre.

"Masikip sa Dibdib"
D: Joyce Bernal
S: Rufa Mae Quinto

Rufa Mae once again plays a lovable, sexy ditz to the hilt in Bernal's latest tongue-in-cheek comedy caper.

This time, she is Boobita Rose, an all-around working girl (she is Rudy Hatfield's external vice president—who multitasks as janitor, telephone operator, receptionist, parttime girlfriend and maid), who supports a family made up of drug-and-sex addicts, an alcoholic, an emphysematous chain-smoker, and a couple of half-brothers and sisters.

THURMAN. Shares stellar billing with Ben Affleck in "Paycheck."

The movie's various plot shifts and twists are heightened by cameo appearances by some of the country's biggest musical names: Regine Velasquez, Lani Misalucha, Ogie Alcasid, Salbakuta, Ely Buendia, Sarah Geronimo and a really hefty Martin Nievera.

Quinto is hilarious, and Bernal manages to deliver genuinely funny moments. But the movie is dragged down by the protracted shrieking of the characters, which can get on your nerves.

How does the story end, or more appropriately, who does she end up with? Don't ask.

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2	PETER PAN	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	TAKING LIVES	GUARANTEED SEATS PAYCHECK 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:20	GRUDGE 2
3	TAKING LIVES	PETER PAN	GUARANTEED SEATS THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 12:30, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30	GUARANTEED SEATS PETER PAN 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	50 FIRST DATES
4	TWISTED	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	GUARANTEED SEATS TWISTED 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
5	PAYCHECK		PETER PAN	GUARANTEED SEATS TAKING LIVES 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
6			PAYCHECK		
7			TWISTED		

GB1 GREENBELT 1	
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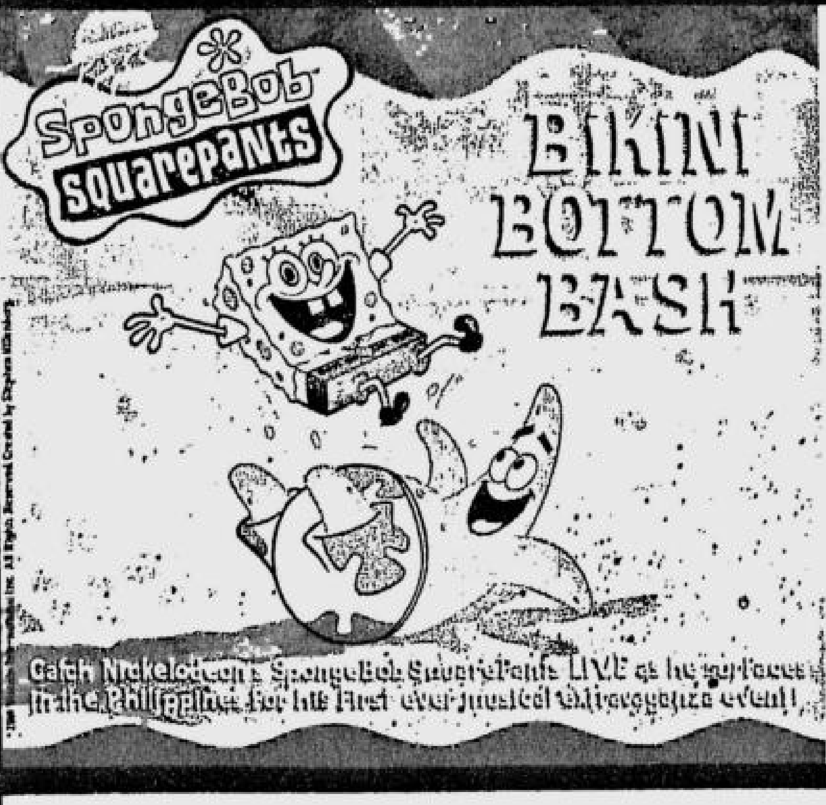

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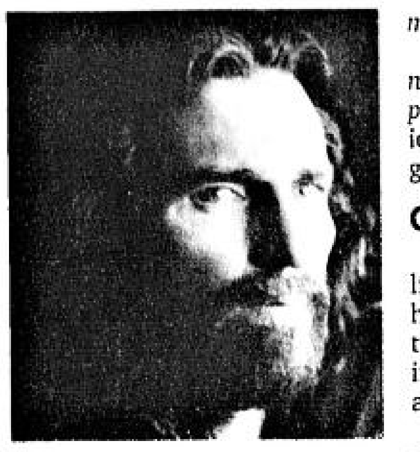
Young people react to 'The Passion'

By Noelani Torre

MEL Gibson's "The Passion" has been one of the most talked about films this year.

Opinions have ranged from high praise to outright condemnation, and though the film isn't as controversial as "The Last Temptation of Christ," it has nevertheless given rise to heated discussions. We asked some young viewers for their reactions to the film. Here are some of their answers:

"I had already read many reviews of the film before I saw it, so I thought I was prepared for whatever violence I would see. But I was wrong. I couldn't help closing my eyes during the more brutal scenes.



CAVIEZEL. Intense.

Profound effect

"But, the movie still had a profound effect on me. I didn't even think of getting popcorn. It challenged me to take a closer look at my life, and at what I have done with it so far. I'm thankful that the makers shared something as personal as their faith with the rest of us."—*Lyn Valleja, 25*

"*Madugo. Masyadong madugo na nakakadiri na minsan. Mahirap isipin na gano'n nga talaga ang nangyari noon. Pero, habang nanonood ka, parang napi*-feel *mo rin ang latigo, ang pagpasok* ng metal ends *sa tagiliran. Nung nanonood ako, asar na asar ako sa* Roman soldiers *at sa mga tao na tumitingin lang. Pero, hindi ko masasabing na*-overwhelm *ako.*

"*Isang na*-appreciate *ko sa* film *na 'to ay ang* language. *Pinagpaguran nilang aralin ang* Aramaic *at* Latin *na parehong* dead languages."—*Tej Ramos, 20*

Gory and moving

"It's both gory and moving. It's like the ultimate combination of holiness and cinema. It was able to portray Christ's extreme suffering, unlike most other movies about him.

"I thought the transitions were good—the individual flashbacks. I finally realized the difficulty of Pontius Pilate's dilemma.

"What I did not like was the devil—the portrayal was good, it was really evil, but it was awkward. I did not feel the temptation that he was supposed to be offering. Every time I think of giving in to temptation, *iniisip ko yung napanood ko at sinasabi ko na lang: 'Kaya mo 'to.'*"—*Gino Gopo, 19*

"*Nakakalula ang pelikula. Hindi ako makahinga sa maraming* parts, *sa totoo lang—kasi takot ako sa dugo. Tsaka ko na*-realize *kung gaano kahirap ang ginawang sakripisyo ni Kristo.*"—*Mayra Limin, 18*

More objective

"I am not a practicing Christian, so maybe I can be more objective about this movie. When you make a religious movie, you have to expect *na marami talaga ang magre*-react. So, you have a responsibility to be as fair as possible—*pero* at the same time, *ang pinag-uusapan dito ay* faith, *na isang napaka*-personal *na bagay.*

"*Kaya, hindi ko rin ma*-blame *si* Mel Gibson *kung lumabas ang mga* prejudices *niya sa* movie. The acting was very good—I liked Jim Caviezel as Jesus Christ. He was intense. But you could also see *na may* prejudice against the Jews. *Binago nila ang* image *ni* Pilate—*ginawa nilang mas mabait! E, hindi naman gano'n sa* Bible. *Sobrang nag*-contrast *sa ugali ng mga* Jewish priests."—*Carlos Abastillas, 22*

Love Añover cuts first album

By Remy M. Umerez

A SONG now making its way up the music charts is broadcaster/comedienne Love Añover's "Bumprr to Bumprr," composed by Snafu Rigor.

Another popular track ("Smile Ka Naman Dyan and Everything") in her debut CD will be incorporated in a GMA show where Love appears.

Love admits she has loved singing since she was small.

"When my mother told me to sing for visiting relatives or friends, *kanta agad ako*! My father loved to ape Tom Jones. *Mahilig talaga kami*," she says.

HER hit single, "Bumprr to Bumprr," was inspired by traffic updates she's identified with on her morning show.

Great fun

Recording the album was great fun, she exclaims. Love was allowed to adlib, provided she wouldn't use offensive words.

"Bumprr to Bumprr" was inspired by the traffic updates that Love is identified with on her morning show.

Yoyoy Villame tops the list of novelty singers she admires most. She has her own cover of "Mag-Exercise Tayo," a classic song from Villame. Another song she likes is "Granada," also by Yoyoy.

Novelty

She cannot imagine herself a serious singer in the mold of Regine or Sharon, although she is capable of dishing out ballads or rock. "*Pang* novelty *talaga ako.* I am very comfortable with it," she adds.

Any feedback from her family and friends?

"Some of them were surprised to find out that I had an album. They were happy for me. *Ang iba naman ay tawa ng tawa* because they found some cuts very funny."

If she is given a free hand with the type of songs to record next, Love says she would enjoy doing Sylvia La Torre's songs!

Talent searches acquire competitive edge

By Nestor U. Torre

DECADES ago, top movie studios like Sampaguita Pictures and LVN discovered and built up their new stars by occasionally holding contests like "Miss and Mr. Number One" (winners: Amalia Fuentes and Juancho Gutierrez.)

Later, starlets were built up in groups like "Stars 66" (Gina Pareño, Pepito and Ramil Rodriguez, etc.) Look-alikes of Hollywood stars were also in fashion—Barbara Perez as the Audrey Hepburn of the Philippines, and Eddie Gutierrez as the local Elvis Presley.

In addition, beauty queens-turned-film stars were also in vogue—Josephine Estrada, Pilar Pilapil, Gloria Diaz, Evangeline Pascual—etc!

Regal Babies

Much later, Mother Lily of Regal Films came up with her Regal Babies—Dina Bonnevie, Gabby Concepcion, Maricel Soriano, William Martinez, etc.

On TV, ABS-CBN followed up with its Star Circle starlets. And GMA-7 showcased its own finds in the weekday "That's Entertainment" show that helped launch the careers of the likes of Ruffa Gutierrez, Lea Salonga, Billy Joe Crawford and Piolo Pascual.

These different starbuilding gambits were successful in their own way, but the process has been fast-tracked of late by the new talent search competitions like "Starstruck," "Star Circle Quest," "Star in A Million" and "Star for A Night."

The young talents are still chosen through the usual audition and winnowing process, but there is the new element of ongoing competition, which viewers like for its sense of drama and the chance it gives them to identify and empathize with their favorite contestant.

Best bets

They like it even better when they are allowed to text-vote for their best bets, because this empowers them and gives them a direct hand in choosing the winners.

However, this becomes problematic when the "wrong" winners are chosen by the viewing public, which may not be that knowledgeable about the elements that make up talent or star potential.

Still, the talent search shows encourage text-voting because it gives them a substantial income. And they insist that the viewing (and voting) public can't be wrong, because it is the final judge on the talents who truly deserve to become stars in the local context.

Star potential

After all, many talents here became stars not because they're gifted actors, but because they're good-looking and charismatic. Since it's the public that affirms a talent's star potential, it truly has the last word on the matter.

What about the genuine talents who are passed up by the process? Well, they'll just have to find other venues for their performances, outside of the star-oriented mainstream industry.

Sufficiently gifted

But the talent search competitions can improve on their work by making sure that the talents they develop are sufficiently gifted to begin with.

For instance, a show recently gave its finalists a singing test that was a big disappointment because practically all of the young talents couldn't sing! They should have been given singing lessons off-camera to enable them to do better in the competition.

Better preselection and workshopping would make these talent searches more interesting and truly competitive, so viewers would get more excited about and involved in voting for their best bets.

Making it big in Japan

STREET SMART
Mandy Navasero

THE story of Remy Galang is worth telling over and over. Call her *Japayuki* if you like, she doesn't really mind. Not after making it big in Japan and coming back home to become a successful entrepreneur. But that's getting ahead of our story.

Remy was secretary to Luz M. Pacifico, now President and Chief Executive Officer of Eligardi Enterprises, a top recruitment agency.

Somewhere along the way, her talent for singing was discovered, and Remy was soon on her way to Japan. By then, she was married, with two kids. Her career took off, but her marriage had begun to deteriorate.

GALANG. Teaches the ropes to hopeful trainees.

Houses

After wisely investing her hard-earned money in four houses and a boutique in an upscale Makati shopping mall, Remy doesn't want to go back to Japan. She still visits Eligardi, though, to teach the ropes to hopeful trainees.

"I encourage them to learn some livelihood trade, because they will not be singing and dancing forever," Remy shares.

Now Showing

From page E2

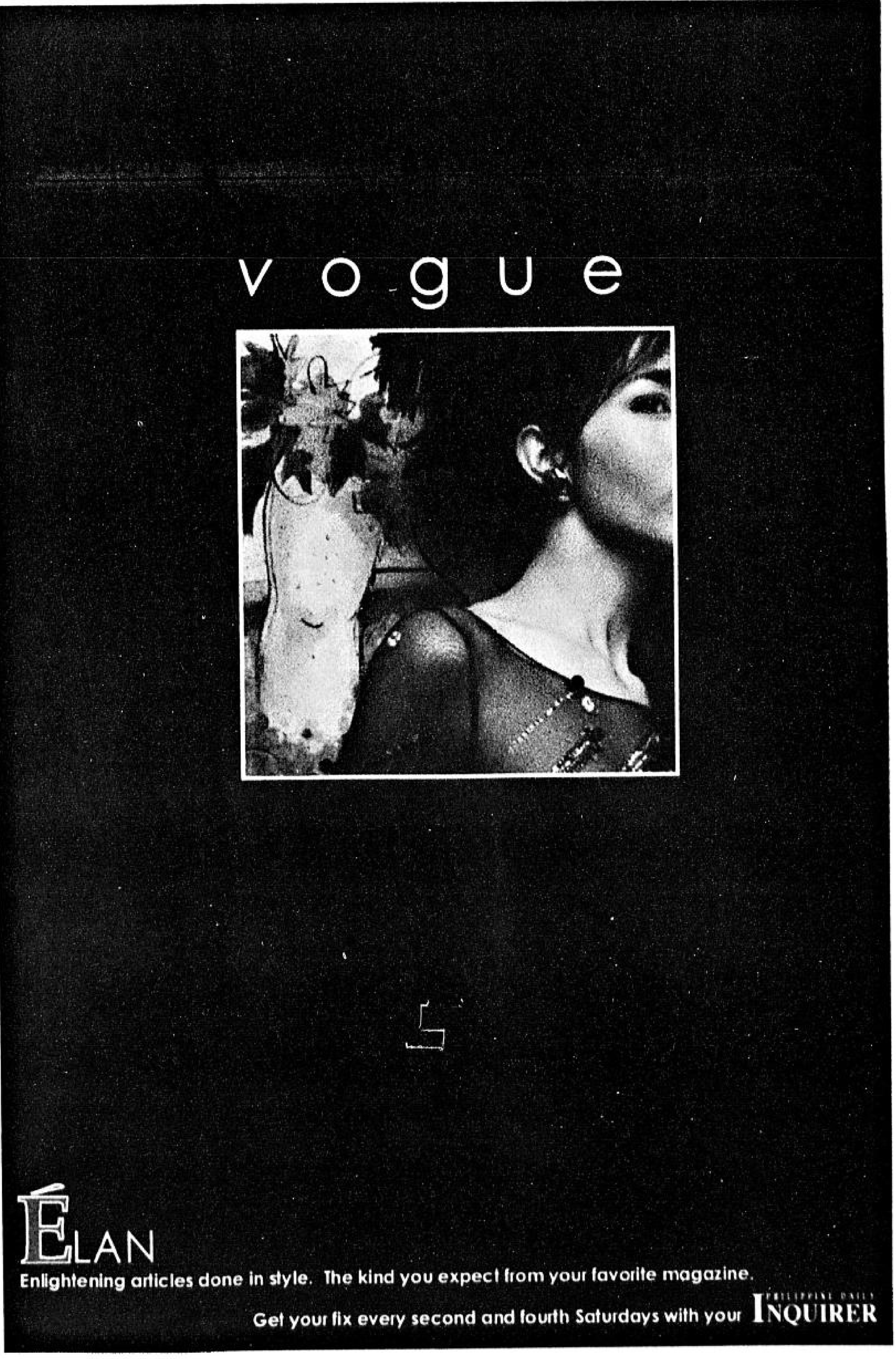
"Acacia"
D: Ki-Hyung Park
S: Hye-Jin Shim, Jin-Geun Kim

Like the recent "Sorum" (which was misleadingly marketed as a horror flick), "Acacia" is a cerebral albeit highly original psychological thriller—about a childless couple who adopts a six-year-old boy who spends his free time drawing the acacia tree in their lawn. But, there are no phantoms, blue boys or crawling tresses here.

"Paycheck"
D: John Woo
S: Ben Affleck, Uma Thurman

Affleck plays a brilliant reverse-engineer who is hired by clients to take apart rival companies' technologies, and find out how they work. When his work is done, his memory is erased for security purposes.

The usually brilliant Woo, here at his unimaginative worst, bungles this futuristic film adaptation of a Philip K. Dick short story. Still, Ben and Uma look as good as ever!



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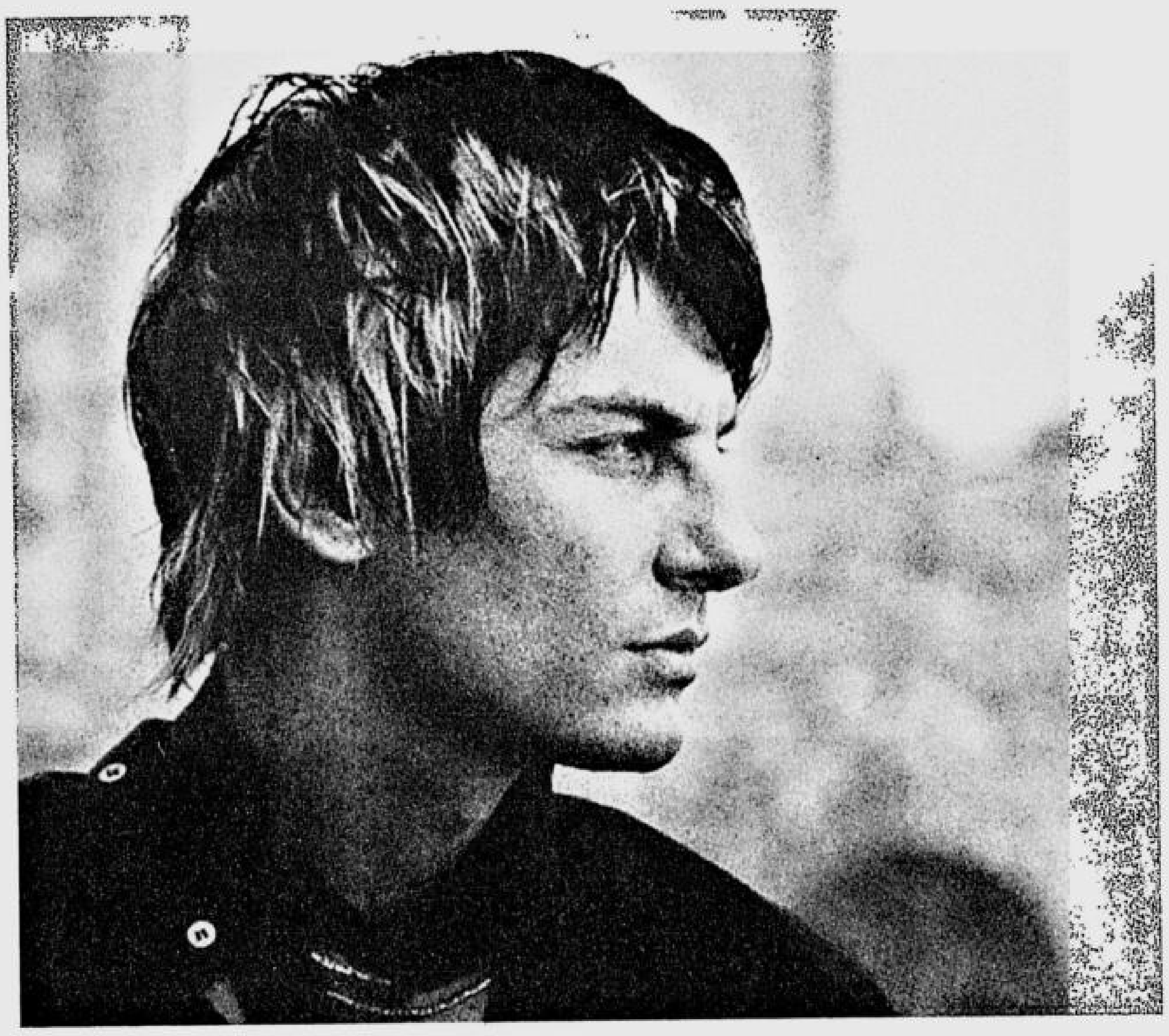

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Exodus	N203	T203	Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini	N207	T207
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SATURDAY *Special*

SUMPTER. Brash and cocky.

'Peter Pan' captures essence of Barrie's hero

By Noelani Torre

THE MENTION of Neverland in recent years has evoked images that would have shocked the Edwardian sensibilities of audiences who first clapped their hands to Peter Pan a hundred years ago. Due to the widely publicized shenanigans of an aging pop star, Neverland and Peter Pan have become twisted ideas. We are surprised when we remember how innocent and magical the story actually was pre-Jacko.

The newest film version of this adventure tale, P.J. Hogan's "Peter Pan," manages to rekindle our fond childhood memories of the boy who never grew up.

Odd choice

Australian director Hogan whose earlier work includes "My Best Friend's Wedding," seems an odd choice for helmsman at first, but his earlier films have shown that he has a flair for recognizing and creating multilayered narratives. Thus, his Pan is richer than the fun-filled but thin Disney animated version most of us remember—and it's more faithful to the book.

Hogan brings us to a highly stylized London where the fog is romantic and the buildings are dark and lit in orange.

When the children fly from their home, they pass through stars and planets that seem real. (And the flying looks graceful and natural as well.)

Their Neverland is a place filled with lush colors and mysterious shadows, where fairies are not always good and the mermaids are disturbing.

This is no sanitized look at childhood and the hardships of growing up—which is really the core of the Peter Pan story—but an honest portrayal of the bittersweet emotions engendered by that long and difficult process.

Adolescent attraction

Here, Hogan does not hide the adolescent attraction between Peter and Wendy, which is hinted at in the book, nor is his Pan as happy-go-lucky and seemingly invulnerable as he is usually portrayed.

Unlike earlier stage and film versions which had cross-dressing women and grown men playing the title role, this Peter Pan is played by an actual boy—14-year-old Jeremy Sumpter—who is as brash and cocky as J.M. Barrie meant his character to be.

Sumpter's performance however, is eclipsed by that of his co-star, 13-year-old newcomer Rachel Hurd-Wood, who plays Wendy Darling with a fresh and luminous charm.

The cast delivers good performances, but particularly memorable is character actor Jason Isaacs in the role of Captain Hook.

Isaacs, who was the cold-blooded Lucius Malfoy in "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," seems to excel at playing villains. His Hook is deliciously fiendish, coolly shooting his own pirates left and right—but he is also charming and sometimes even melancholic.

When the dreaded tick-tocking crocodile finally swallows him up, we can't help feeling a little sorry for the old boy, even as we cheer the children's victory over him.

The absence of big-name stars gives greater prominence to the story.

Sexual undertones

Some have found the film's violence and sexual undertones to be disturbing, especially for the children who are the movie's main audience, but this shows an incomplete understanding of kids. They are more violent in their rough play than the pirates in "Peter Pan" who, even when they are presumably killed, don't actually bleed.

As for the sexual undertones, most kids wouldn't recognize them and, even if they did, would probably be more interested in the frenzied swordplay and the flights through pink clouds.

In "Peter Pan," Hogan has captured the essence of J.M. Barrie's original, breathing new life into a figure that has remained static and two-dimensional for so long, and who has recently become a tragic symbol rather than the symbol of, in Barrie's words, the gaiety, innocence, and heartlessness of children.

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SATURDAY Special

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By Noelani Torre

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When the children fly from their home, they pass through stars and planets that seem real. (And the flying looks graceful and natural as well.)

Their Neverland is a place filled with lush colors and mysterious shadows, where fairies are not always good and the mermaids are disturbing.

This is no sanitized look at childhood and the hardships of growing up—which is really the core of the Peter Pan story—but an honest portrayal of the bittersweet emotions engendered by that long and difficult process.

Adolescent attraction

Here, Hogan does not hide the adolescent attraction between Peter and Wendy, which is hinted at in the book, nor is his Pan as happy-go-lucky and seemingly invulnerable as he is usually portrayed.

Unlike earlier stage and film versions which had cross-dressing women and grown men playing the title role, this Peter Pan is played by an actual boy—14-year-old Jeremy Sumpter—who is as brash and cocky as J.M. Barrie meant his character to be.

Sumpter's performance however, is eclipsed by that of his co-star, 13-year-old newcomer Rachel Hurd-Wood, who plays Wendy Darling with a fresh and luminous charm.

The cast delivers good performances, but particularly memorable is character actor Jason Isaacs in the role of Captain Hook.

Isaacs, who was the cold-blooded Lucius Malfoy in "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," seems to excel at playing villains. His Hook is deliciously fiendish, coolly shooting his own pirates left and right—but he is also charming and sometimes even melancholic.

When the dreaded tick-tocking crocodile finally swallows him up, we can't help feeling a little sorry for the old boy, even as we cheer the children's victory over him.

The absence of big-name stars gives greater prominence to the story.

Sexual undertones

Some have found the film's violence and sexual undertones to be disturbing, especially for the children who are the movie's main audience, but this shows an incomplete understanding of kids. They are more violent in their rough play than the pirates in "Peter Pan" who, even when they are presumably killed, don't actually bleed.

As for the sexual undertones, most kids wouldn't recognize them and, even if they did, would probably be more interested in the frenzied swordplay and the flights through pink clouds.

In "Peter Pan," Hogan has captured the essence of J.M. Barrie's original, breathing new life into a figure that has remained static and two-dimensional for so long, and who has recently become a tragic symbol rather than the symbol of, in Barrie's words, the gaiety, innocence, and heartlessness of children.

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Yeah
Usher
Confessions
RINGTONE N1
POLYTONE T1
WALLPAPER C1
LYRICS LY1

Curbside Prophet
Jason Mraz
Waiting For My Rocket to Come
RINGTONE N2
POLYTONE T2
WALLPAPER C2
LYRICS LY2

Sa Iyo
Sarah Geronimo
Popstar: A Dream Come True
RINGTONE N3
POLYTONE T3
WALLPAPER C3
LYRICS LY3

Oops Ay!
[illegible]
[illegible]
RINGTONE N4
POLYTONE T4
WALLPAPER C4
LYRICS LY4

She's Out Of My Life
[illegible]
Closer
RINGTONE N5
POLYTONE T5
WALLPAPER C5
LYRICS LY5

Rainbow
South Border
Crying Ladies Soundtrack
RINGTONE N6
POLYTONE T6
WALLPAPER C6
LYRICS LY6

Just A Little While
Janet Jackson
Damita Jo
RINGTONE N7
POLYTONE T7
WALLPAPER C7
LYRICS LY7

Slow Jamz
Kanye West
College Dropout
RINGTONE N8
POLYTONE T8
WALLPAPER C8
LYRICS LY8

Paba
[illegible]
Permission to Shine
RINGTONE N9
POLYTONE T9
WALLPAPER C9
LYRICS LY9

Hey Mama
The Black Eyed Peas
Elephunk
RINGTONE N10
POLYTONE T10
WALLPAPER C10
LYRICS LY10

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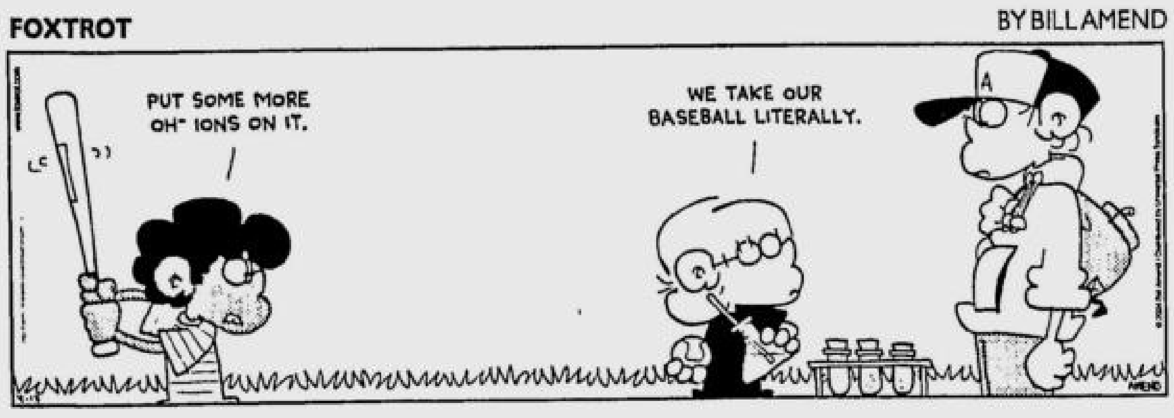
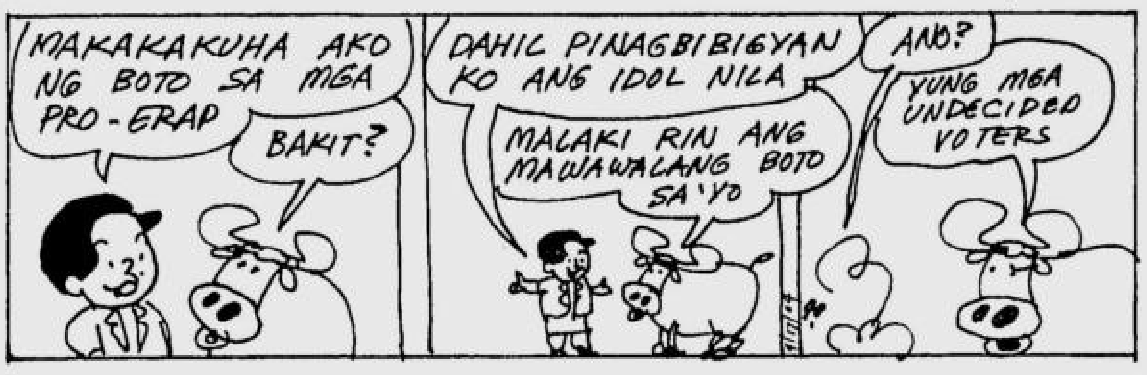
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


PUT SOME MORE OH- IONS ON IT.
WE TAKE OUR BASEBALL LITERALLY.

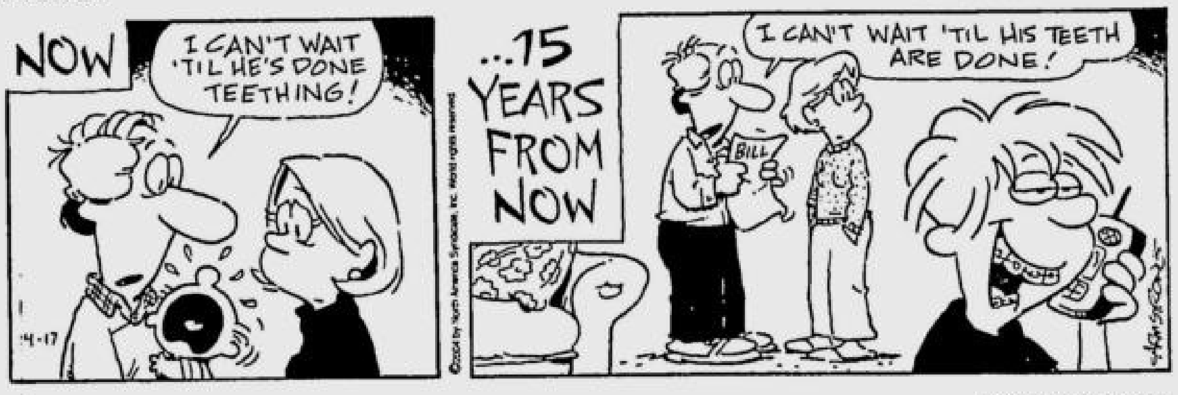
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAKAKAKUHA AKO NG BOTO SA MGA PRO-ERAP
BAKIT?
DAHIL PINAGBIBIGYAN KO ANG IDOL NILA
MALAKI RIN ANG MAWAWALANG BOTO SA'YO
ANO?
YUNG MGA UNDECIDED VOTERS

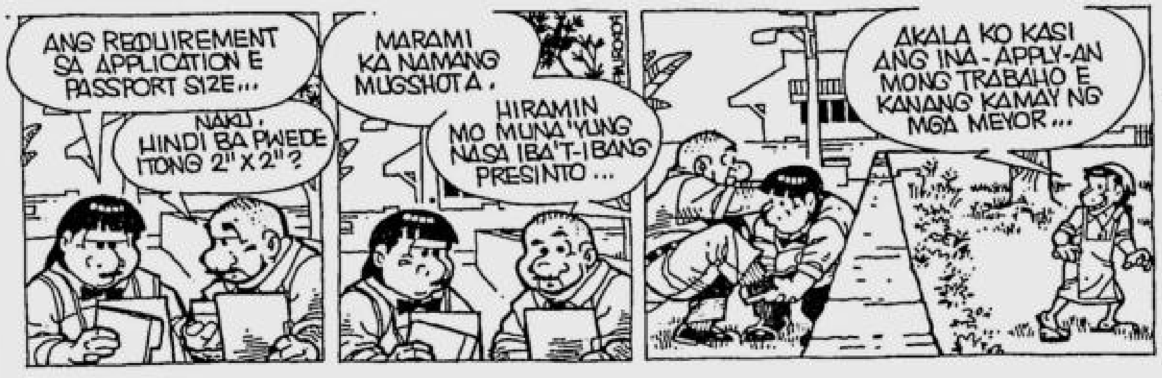
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


NOW
I CAN'T WAIT 'TIL HE'S DONE TEETHING!
...15 YEARS FROM NOW
I CAN'T WAIT 'TIL HIS TEETH ARE DONE!
BILL

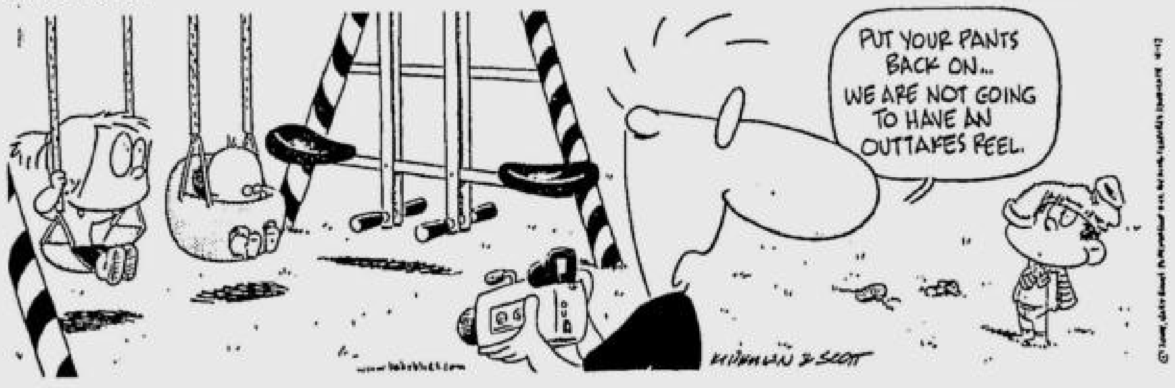
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG REQUIREMENT SA APPLICATION E PASSPORT SIZE...
NAKU, HINDI BA PWEDE ITONG 2" X 2"?
MARAMI KA NAMANG MUGSHOT A.
HIRAMIN MO MUNA 'YUNG NASA IBA'T-IBANG PRESINTO...
AKALA KO KASI ANG INA-APPLY-AN MONG TRABAHO E KANANG KAMAY NG MGA MEYOR...

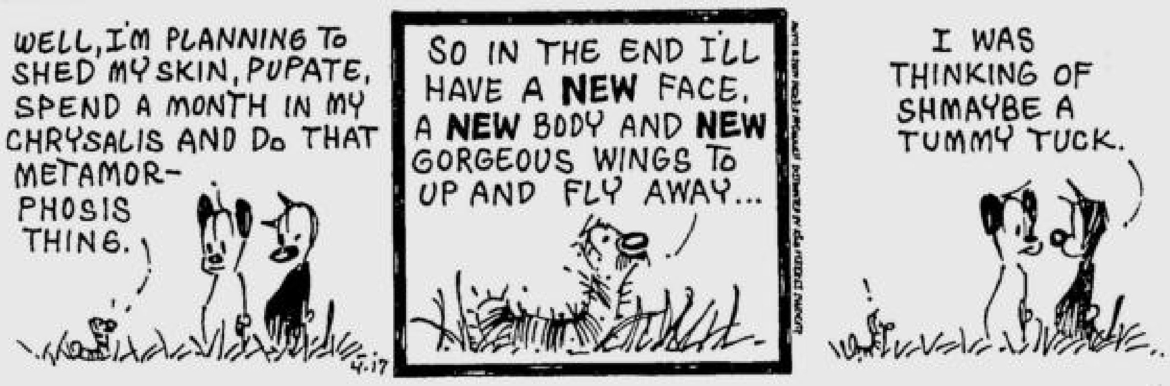
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


PUT YOUR PANTS BACK ON... WE ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE AN OUTTAKES REEL.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

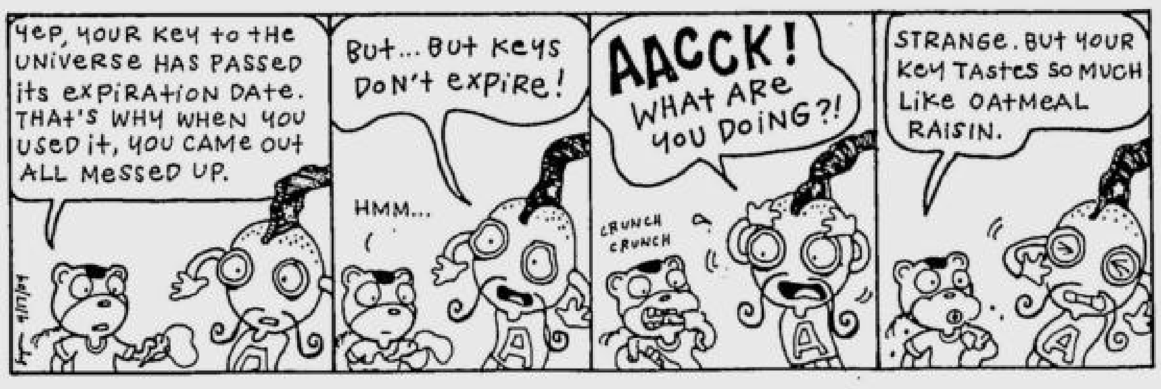
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WELL, I'M PLANNING TO SHED MY SKIN, PUPATE, SPEND A MONTH IN MY CHRYSALIS AND DO THAT METAMOR-PHOSIS THING.
SO IN THE END I'LL HAVE A NEW FACE, A NEW BODY AND NEW GORGEOUS WINGS TO UP AND FLY AWAY...
I WAS THINKING OF SHMAYBE A TUMMY TUCK.
4.17

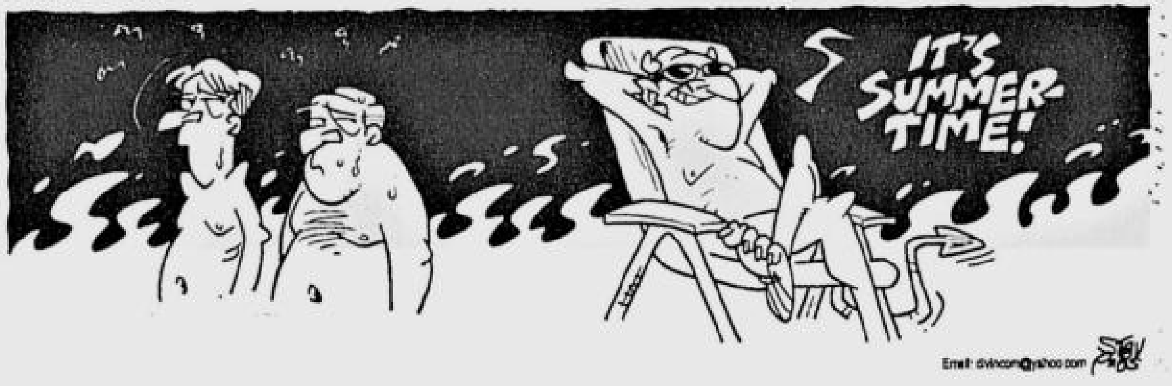
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YEP, YOUR KEY TO THE UNIVERSE HAS PASSED ITS EXPIRATION DATE. THAT'S WHY WHEN YOU USED IT, YOU CAME OUT ALL MESSED UP.
BUT... BUT KEYS DON'T EXPIRE!
HMM...
AACCK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
CRUNCH CRUNCH
STRANGE. BUT YOUR KEY TASTES SO MUCH LIKE OATMEAL RAISIN.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


IT'S SUMMER-TIME!

Email: divincom@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a strong sense of responsibility. You won't let others down. You are strong-willed, steady and grounded. People know they can rely on you, which is why others listen when you speak. Social causes interest you. In the year ahead, you will finish a nine-year cycle. Get ready to move on.
Birthdate of: Jennifer Garner, actress; Karen Blixen, writer; Harry Reasoner, TV journalist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might complain to a sibling about dealing with a parent today. Some relationships are smooth; some are not. Be grateful for small mercies.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Do not fall victim to self-criticism today. And don't let critical comments from others get under your skin. You're as good today as you were a week ago. Right?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Someone older and possibly wiser might say something that discourages you today. Don't take it personally. Older people love to show off their years of experience.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a poor day to deal with authority figures, teachers, parents, bosses and the police. You will be limited or confined in some way. Just play it cool.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Pessimism is rampant today. Your glass is half-empty. Of course, all of this is simply your state of mind. Everything will look quite different tomorrow! (Go figure.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might be annoyed because somebody refuses to share something fairly with you today. You feel you're getting the short end of the stick. Fear not; things improve by tomorrow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Conversations with a parent or a boss could be a downer today. Do not react. Don't take anything seriously. Wait until tomorrow to see how you feel about what is said.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Plans for travel and education suddenly look difficult. Funding and opportunities are suddenly squelched. This is just a temporary dark cloud on your horizon. Have courage.

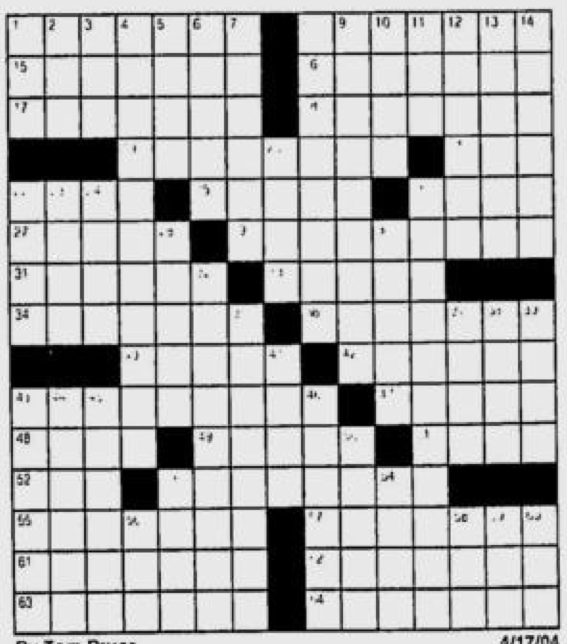
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Refrain from being too strict or critical with children today. Goethe said, "Criticism does much, but encouragement does more." Definitely wise advice to follow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is not the day for a serious discussion with a close friend or partner. Too much doom and gloom! Wait until tomorrow, when all of the conditions are much more favorable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): When I was 12 years old, I pinned up a note on my bedroom wall: "Worry is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do, but gets you nowhere." It's true.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If you buy something today, it will have to be practical and have a long-term value for you. However, be careful shopping. You're hard to please today.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
4/17/04

ACROSS
1 "Open, Sesame!" guy
8 Trinket
15 Means
16 Along the way
17 Repeat performances
18 Harry Dean __
19 Table linens
21 Soil turner
22 Sudden loss of traction
25 Pilot
26 Intuited
27 Choice of conjunctions
29 Algonquian leaders
31 Doodad
33 Room scheme
34 Beverage company
36 Theater troupes
40 "Slave Ship" author Jones
42 Multi-speaker system
43 Burying
47 Rigid
48 __-do-well
49 Very broad necktie
51 Flat-topped mountain
52 Fly-fishing action
53 Invest with supreme authority
55 Say again
57 Teheran resident
61 Jackie of classic television
62 Virginia or Kansas city
63 Food in beds
64 Do-over

DOWN
1 Gator tail?
2 Author Deighton
3 Back of the bus.
4 Time-waster
5 Gillette razor
6 Tools
7 Valuable things
8 Hems in
9 Correlates
10 Bikini tops
11 Forever and a day
12 Part of M.L.K.
13 Star of "My Favorite Year"
14 Doctrines
20 Be a bookworm
22 Droops
23 Hit with a bent leg
24 Overhead light bulb?
26 Scorpion grass
28 Harder to find
30 Castles' defenses
32 Seller making a promise
35 Wets
37 Cleveland's lake
38 Umps' cousins
39 Davenport or chesterfield
41 Length unit
43 Emily Saliers and Amy Ray's color?
44 In an orderly way
45 Conical shelters
46 Bloodier
50 The Velvet Fog
53 Alleviate
54 Catches forty winks
56 Double-crosser
58 One of the Gershwins
59 Vent
60 Journalist Hentoff

Friday's Puzzle Solved

M	C	J	O	B	■	O	M	A	R	R	■	P	A	S
O	H	A	R	E	■	V	A	L	U	E	■	I	C	Y
L	I	N	K	S	H	A	Z	A	R	D	■	P	U	B
■	■	■	■	T	A	L	E	■	■	C	H	E	R	I
M	O	P	P	E	T	■	R	E	P	R	I	S	A	L
A	V	O	I	D	E	R	■	Q	U	O	T	E	■	■
V	O	L	T	■	D	E	B	U	G	S	■	C	B	S
I	L	I	A	C	■	V	I	A	■	S	E	T	O	N
S	O	C	■	A	G	E	N	T	S	■	R	I	M	E
■	■	E	R	R	O	R	■	E	A	R	L	O	B	E
A	B	S	O	L	V	E	S	■	W	I	E	N	E	R
M	I	T	Z	I	■	■	W	E	E	P	■	■	■	■
P	S	I	■	S	K	E	E	T	D	E	V	I	C	E
L	O	N	■	L	I	L	A	C	■	S	C	R	A	M
E	N	G	■	E	D	I	T	H	■	T	R	A	P	S

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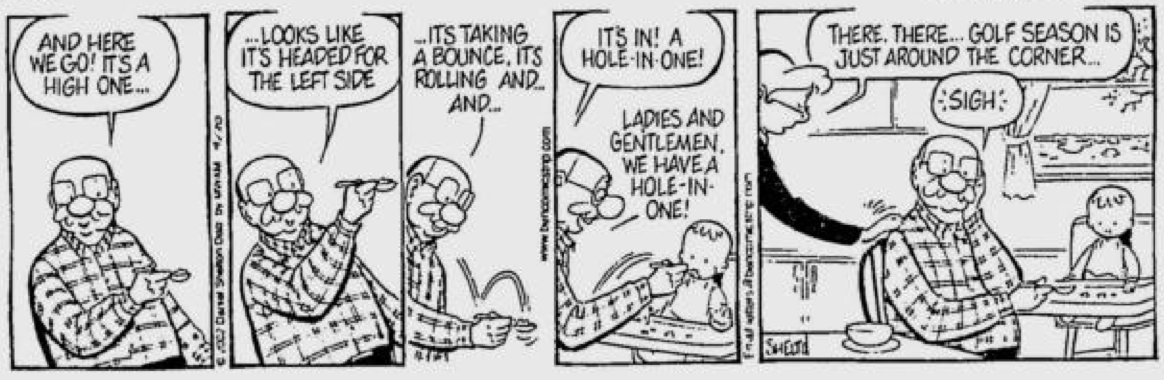
4/17/04

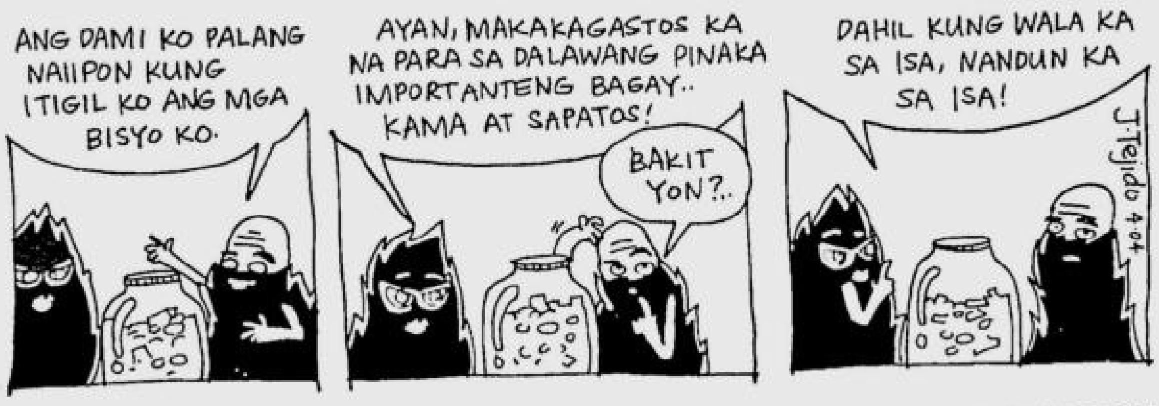
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AND HERE WE GO! IT'S A HIGH ONE...
...LOOKS LIKE IT'S HEADED FOR THE LEFT SIDE
...IT'S TAKING A BOUNCE, IT'S ROLLING AND... AND...
IT'S IN! A HOLE-IN-ONE!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE A HOLE-IN-ONE!
THERE, THERE... GOLF SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...
SIGH
www.bencomicstrip.com

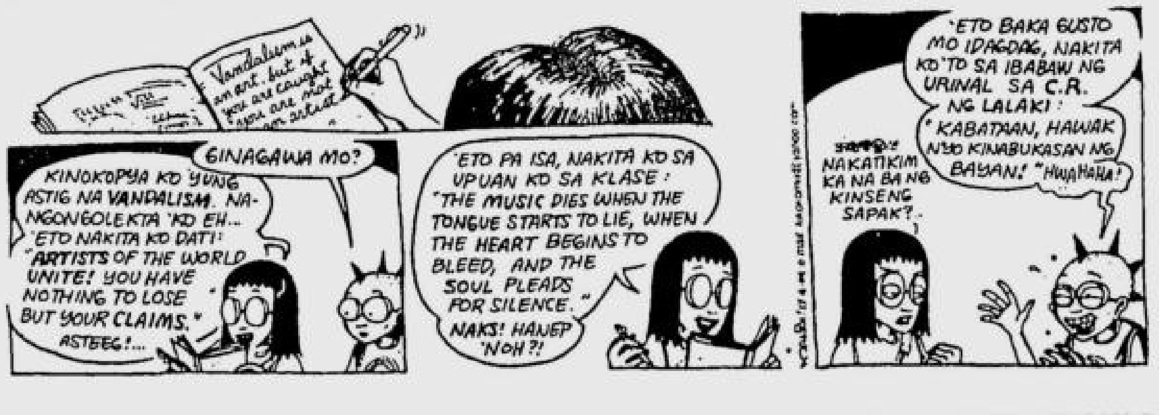
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG DAMI KO PALANG NAIIPON KUNG ITIGIL KO ANG MGA BISYO KO.
AYAN, MAKAKAGASTOS KA NA PARA SA DALAWANG PINAKA IMPORTANTENG BAGAY.. KAMA AT SAPATOS!
BAKIT YON?..
DAHIL KUNG WALA KA SA ISA, NANDUN KA SA ISA!
J.Tejido 4.04

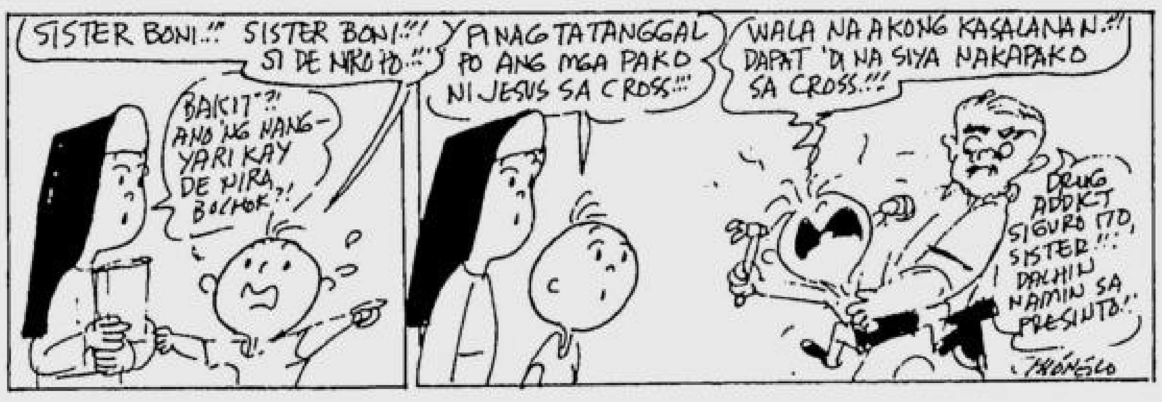
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Vandalism is an art, but if you are caught you are not an artist.
GINAGAWA MO?
KINOKOPYA KO YUNG ASTIG NA VANDALISM. NANGONGOLEKTA KO EH... ETO NAKITA KO DATI: "ARTISTS OF THE WORLD UNITE! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CLAIMS."
ASTEEG!...
ETO PA ISA, NAKITA KO SA UPUAN KO SA KLASE: "THE MUSIC DIES WHEN THE TONGUE STARTS TO LIE, WHEN THE HEART BEGINS TO BLEED, AND THE SOUL PLEADS FOR SILENCE." NAKS! HANEP 'NOH?!
ETO BAKA GUSTO MO IDAGDAG, NAKITA KO 'TO SA IBABAW NG URINAL SA C.R. NG LALAKI: "KABATAAN, HAWAK N'YO KINABUKASAN NG BAYAN!" "HWAHAHA!
NAKATIKIM KA NA BA NG KINSENG SAPAK?

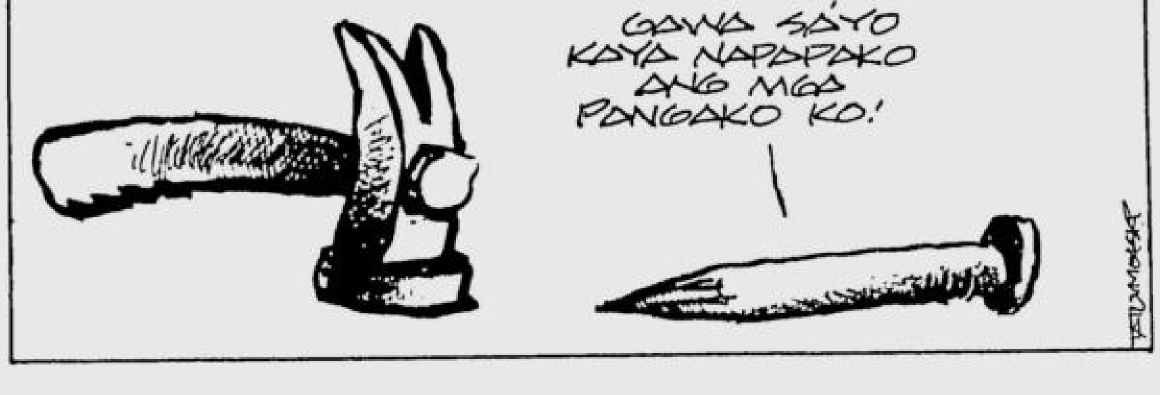
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SISTER BONI..!! SISTER BONI!..!! SI DE NIRO PO..!!
BAKIT?! ANO'NG NANGYARI KAY DE NIRA BOCHOK?!
PINAGTATANGGAL PO ANG MGA PAKO NI JESUS SA CROSS..!!
WALA NA AKONG KASALANAN..!! DAPAT 'DI NA SIYA NAKAPAKO SA CROSS..!!
DRUG ADDICT SIGURO ITO, SISTER..!! DALHIN NAMIN SA PRESINTO..!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


GAWA SA'YO KAYA NAPAPAKO ANG MGA PANGAKO KO!

Gina is grateful for being given another chance to act

By Jocelyn Valle

VETERAN actress Gina Pareño shakes her head when told about the premiere night for the movie, "Masikip sa Dibdib (Ang Tunay na Buhay ni Boobita Rose)," where she plays the mother of lead star Rufa Mae Quinto. "*Baka ma*-pirate *lang*. "*Lalong humihina ang* show biz *dahil sa* piracy," she frets.

Gina started getting concerned about her profession after she got out of rehab for substance abuse in 1993. She was there for one year and two months. "I missed acting so much," she recalls. "I realized that I should appreciate my profession more. Imagine, *ina*-idolize *ang mga artista. Pero, bakit ang mga artista, ang tipid ngumiti*?

Simple smile

"A simple smile can make a fan happy. *Napakaswerte mo kapag tinanggap ka ng tao*. We should be thankful for that privilege. *Pero kapag napansin ng mga tao na 'di ka totoo, iiwan ka nila*."

Gina, who started her career at Sampaguita Pictures 40 years ago, is doubly grateful "for being given the chance to act again."

Now, at 55, she works regularly as a mainstay on Channel 2's "Basta't Kasama Kita." She was also Rufa Mae's choice to play her drug-dependent mother in "Masikip sa Dibdib."

GINA/F4

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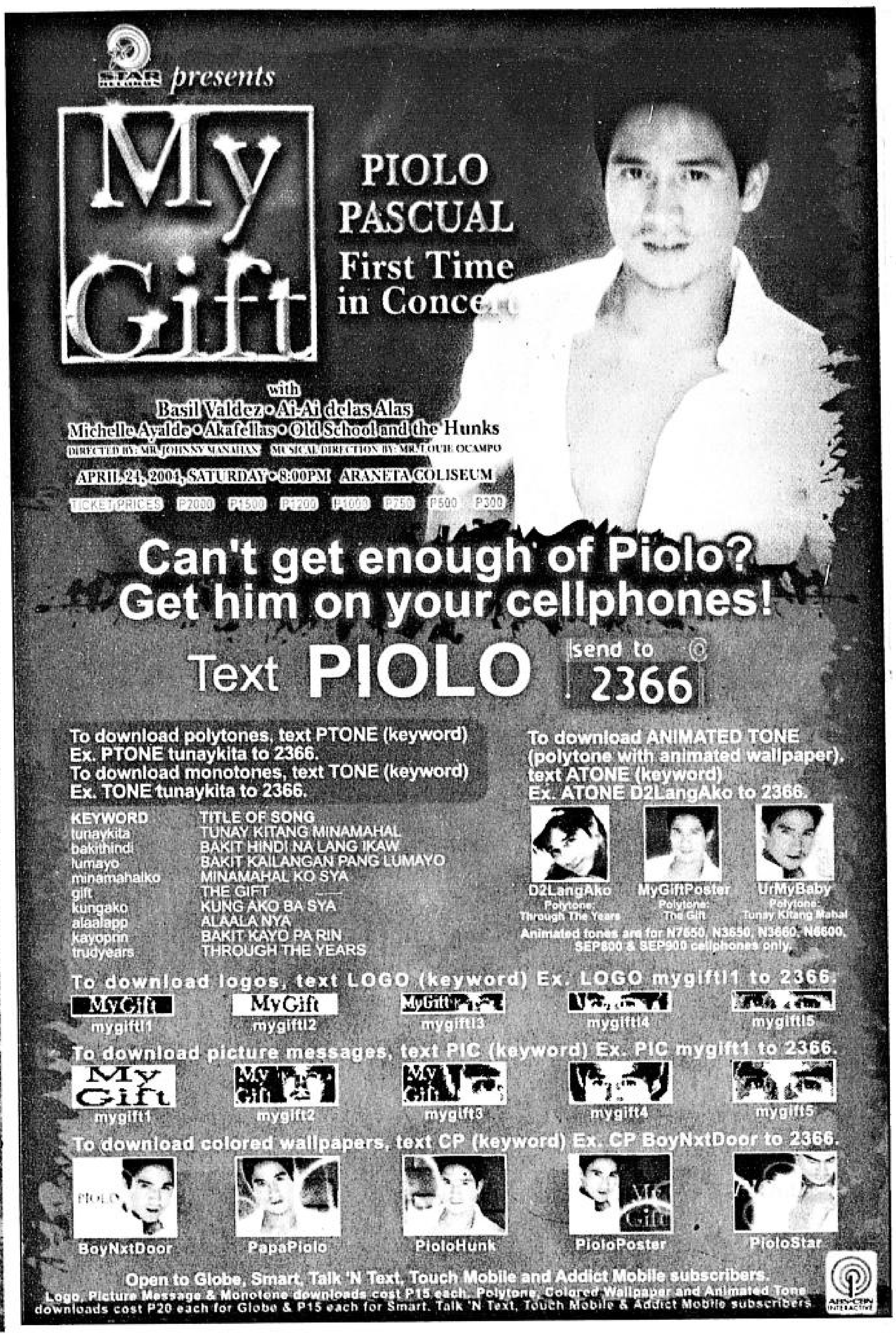
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bakithindi	BAKIT HINDI NA LANG IKAW
lumayo	BAKIT KAILANGAN PANG LUMAYO
minamahalko	MINAMAHAL KO SYA
gift	THE GIFT
kungako	KUNG AKO BA SYA
alaalapp	ALAALA NYA
kayoprin	BAKIT KAYO PA RIN
trudyears	THROUGH THE YEARS

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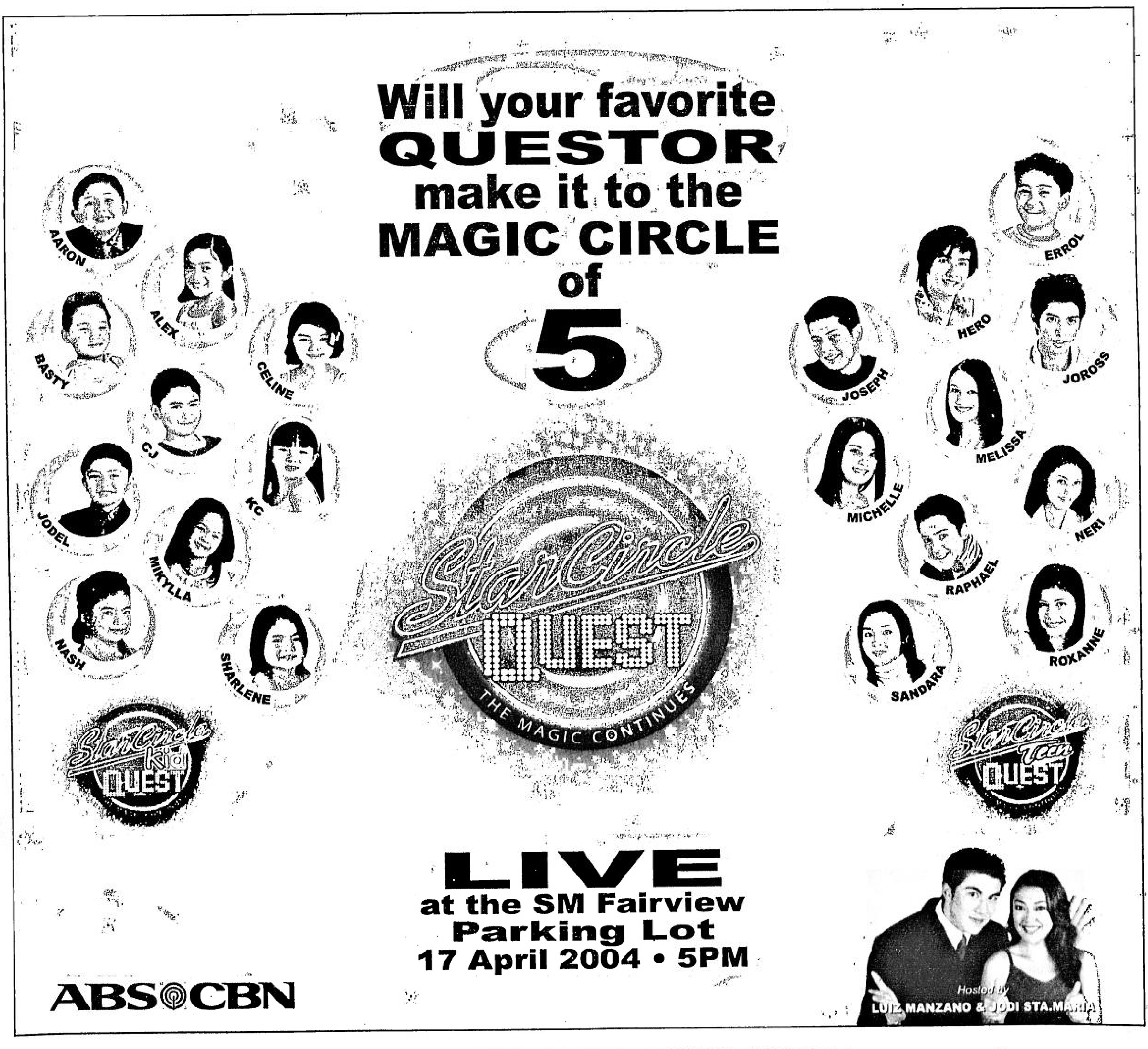
Will your favorite QUESTOR make it to the MAGIC CIRCLE of 5
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ABS-CBN

Lessons learned from directing plays and musicals

By Nestor U. Torre

THE FIRST production I directed was a dramatic reading of "The Diary of Anne Frank" at the Ateneo de Cagayan when I was still in college. I got such a surge when the audience reacted very emotionally to the performance despite the fact that it was "just" a reading.

This made me realize that the theater could be very powerful, illuminating and inspiring.

Shy boy

Another play I directed in college taught me another lesson. One of our actors was a very shy boy. In no time at all, however, he blossomed into a confident and giving actor.

This made me see that the theater could be a liberating experience not just for viewers, but for actors as well. And that the performing arts could be used for educational and psycho-social purposes.

Actor

When I got to Manila, however, I was "discovered" as an actor by the likes of Rolando Tinio, Joey Gosengfiao, Bibot Amador and Bert and Daisy Avellana, so I was kept busy for many years, appearing in one play after another in quick succession.

I had no time for directing—until Au Cobarrubias persuaded me to direct "Jesus Christ Superstar in Filipino" at Hotel Mirador. The musical production, which starred Celeste Legaspi and Rico J. Puno, was a hit, and led to my doing other popular Mirador shows like "Cabaret" (with Behn Cervantes, Cynthia Patag and Ric Segreto), "Close Encounters with the Third Sex," and "The Owl and the Pussycat in Filipino" (with Tetchie Agbayani and Manny Castañeda).

AGBAYANI AND ROA. Offbeat roles expanded their thespic horizons.

By this time, some of my major interests as director had established themselves: I liked working with new talents, and putting established stars in unconventional roles.

First stage appearance

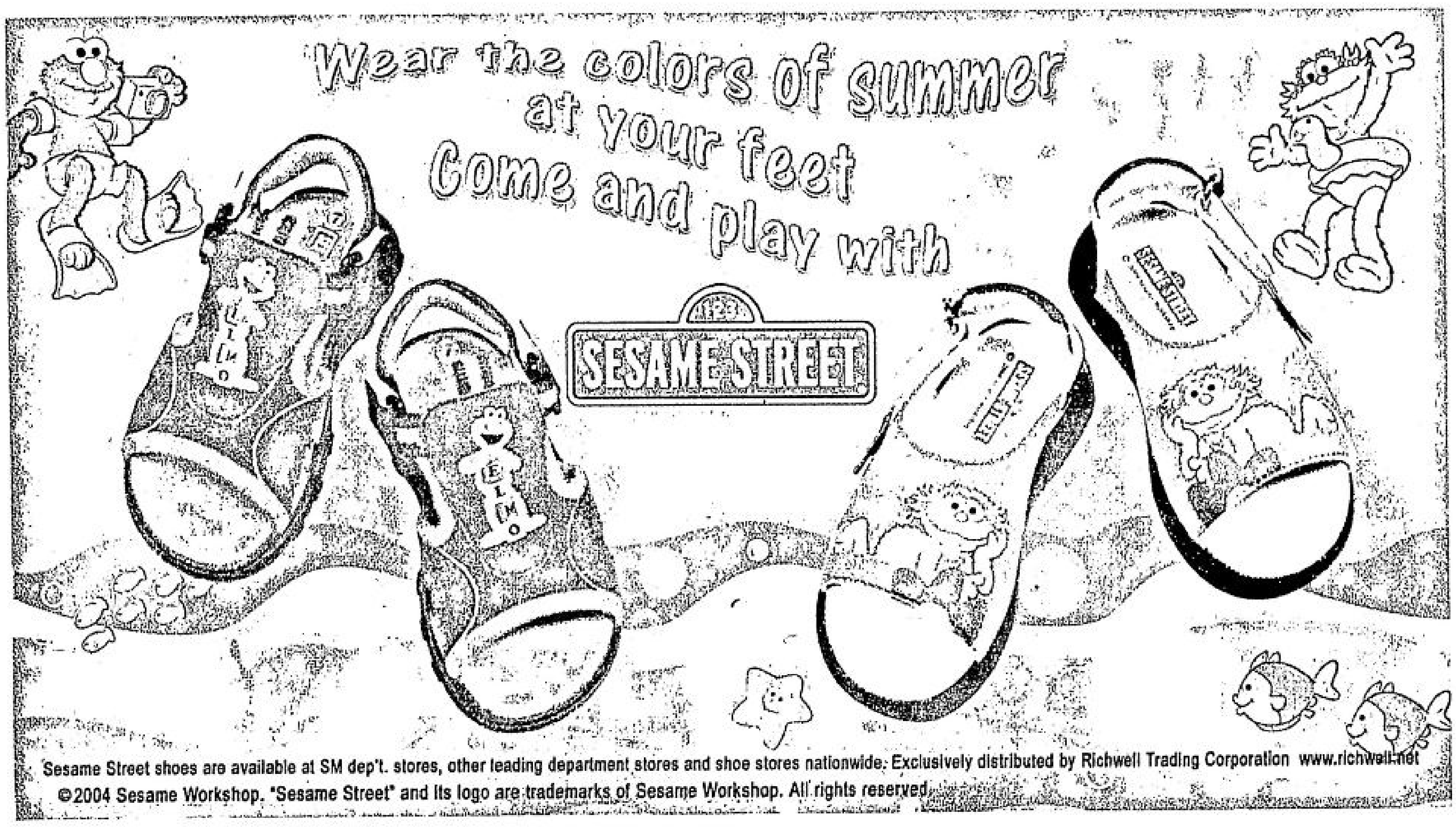
Thus, "Cabaret" had first-time musical leads in Ric and Cynthia, and "Owl" was Tetchie's first stage appearance. The fact that she did so well in the demanding two-character play did a lot to convince people that she had much more going for her than just her sexy Playboy photo spread.

Speaking of casting established stars in offbeat roles, I also directed an English-language version of "Owl" in which the "virginal" Boots Anson-Roa portrayed a "play for pay" girl.

This was a big stretch for Boots, but she was raring to do it because she wanted to expand her thespic horizons. Wasn't she scared of doing something so far-out (for her)? Well, it helped a lot that her husband Pete would be her leading man.

Feisty performance

Still, Boots had to work really hard during rehearsals to overcome her natural reticence and basic niceness. But her determination paid off on opening night, when surprised viewers saw a new and sexier Boots, and rewarded her feisty performance with a long ovation! *(To be continued)*



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Gina is grateful for being given another chance to act

From page F3

It helps that Gina is a versatile actress who can do both drama and comedy effortlessly. "*Kalog ako,*" she acknowledges. "*Pero, may moods din.*"

"Kapag naisipan n'yang umalis, aalis 'yan," interjects her daughter, actress Jannica, who started acting in the movies when Gina was in rehab. "One time, 10 days *siya sa* Baguio."

Loner

"I love to travel," confirms Gina. "I also love fishing, but I can't cook. I have a lot of pets in the house—lovebirds, parrots, koi fish, cats, dogs. *Gustong-gusto ko ring magtrabaho.* But, I'm also a loner. *Ang aso kong si* Sakee *lang ang kasama ko* 24 hours a day."

Gina admits that she has mellowed. More than her work, she values her family most. She cracks up as she shares humorous anecdotes about her mother. When asked about her father, she replies that she has never met him.

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SATURDAY *Special*

Robi Rosa is ready for his own spotlight

ROSA AND MARTIN. Early success with Menudo.

ROSA. His musical influences include Miles Davis and Sting.

BEVERLY HILLS, California—Robi "Draco" Rosa has been on the music scene for two decades, first as a member of the Puerto Rican teen-dream group, Menudo, then as a top producer and songwriter for Ricky Martin and others.

Yet, when it came to his own projects, the spotlight has eluded the man who wrote "Livin' La Vida Loca." Edgy, avant-garde and radio unfriendly, his rock-infused solo outings have garnered little more than critical acclaim—partly due to Rosa's own design.

"I don't go there. It's a bad investment for me. I get no return from trying to be up ahead of things, to see if I can try and manipulate," he says. "I don't work like, 'Go in this direction,' or 'Let's listen to so and so.' I don't strive to be a certain way."

Mainstream audience

For years, Rosa has refused to alter his work to reach the mainstream audience. He even hates to alter his look—the heavily tattooed singer grimaces at advice to shave off his beard in order to be more marketable. "There's more opportunity when you're clean shaven," he admits reluctantly.

But his latest work, "Mad Love," may finally give Rosa some commercial success to go with the artistic praise.

The 33-year-old's second English-language album (and fifth overall) may be his most accessible yet—a romantic, brooding disc that he says was influenced by Miles Davis, but is more than a little reminiscent of Sting.

"This album has just enough commercial appeal to grab a very big audience," says producer-songwriter Walter Afanasieff, a hitmaker for artists ranging from Celine Dion to Mariah Carey who collaborated on the "Mad Love" album. "It's not mediocre, it's not redundant."

While Rosa claims he didn't craft his record for pop hits, if the end result gets him to a wider audience, that's OK by him.

Exciting

"I felt that maybe I would have a chance to go around the world with 'Mad Love,' Rosa says during breakfast at a posh Beverly Hills hotel, a few minutes from his home. "If I can do that, it's exciting."

It's not as if Rosa's music hasn't traveled around the world before.

The budding New York-born musician became a world sensation before he was a teen, when he moved to Puerto Rico and his uncle convinced him to audition for the group, Menudo—a bubble-gum teen pop band that relied more on pinup looks than music.

The group's appeal grew beyond Spanish-language markets, and Rosa's chiseled face was out in front. Even the United States got caught up in the Menudo craze for a brief moment in the '80s.

During that time, Rosa began to write his first songs—even though no members of the group were writing their sugary lyrics. But when Rosa wasn't able to contribute musically to the group, he bolted.

For some of his fans, the path he took may have seemed incongruous with his previous persona. After starring in the movie, "Salsa" in 1988 with future wife, Angela Alvarado, he created the hard-rocking group Maggie's Dream.

In 1990, the band released its self-titled debut, with Rosa as lead singer and guitarist.

Turbulent time

Though a hit critically, the band went nowhere. Not only was there friction in the group, but Rosa admits it was a turbulent, wild time in his life.

"The only negative really was I was out of my mind back then—having a good time, young and crazy, whatever you call it," he says. "It just took me a minute to get there and know where to put my energies."

So, he started working on his on solo projects. His first album, the Spanish-language rock album, "Frio," was released in 1994. But its lack of success led him to start exploring other musical projects, including songwriting for other Latin stars, such as Julio Iglesias.

"It was never my goal to take on that career. I fell into it. I got a phone call one day. My son was just born, I needed some work, and I got the call," says Rosa, who has two young boys. "That just kept slipping into a bigger and bigger thing, so I ran with it."

Ricky Martin's success gave him plenty to run with. Rosa penned the song that would turn Martin from a Latin star to a world sensation—the 1999 smash, "Livin' La Vida Loca."

ROBI/G3

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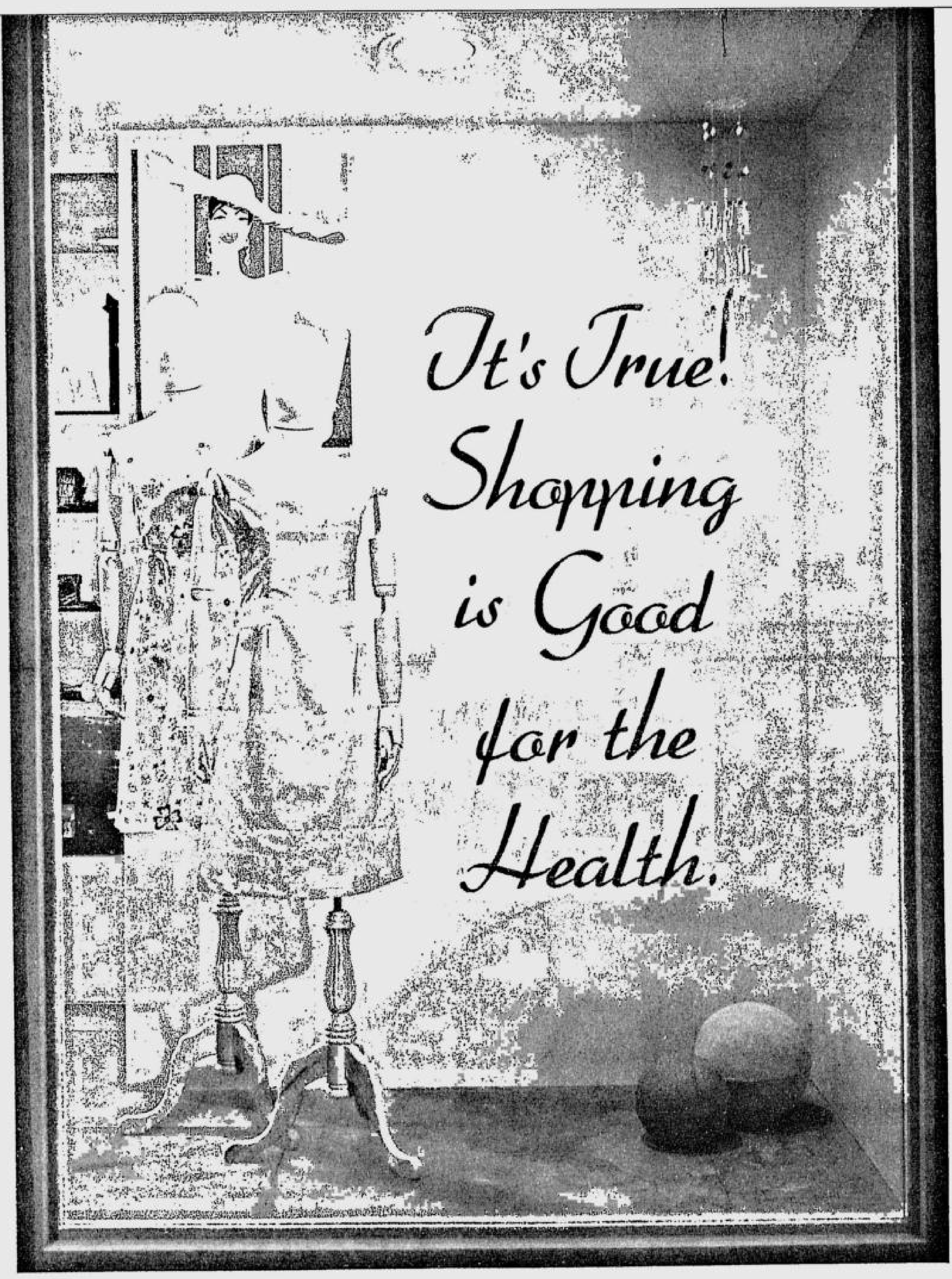

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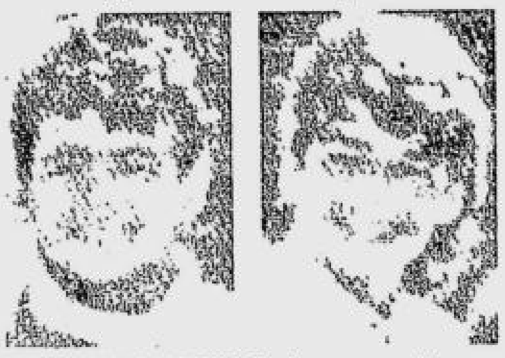
SATURDAY *Special*

Robi Rosa is ready for his own spotlight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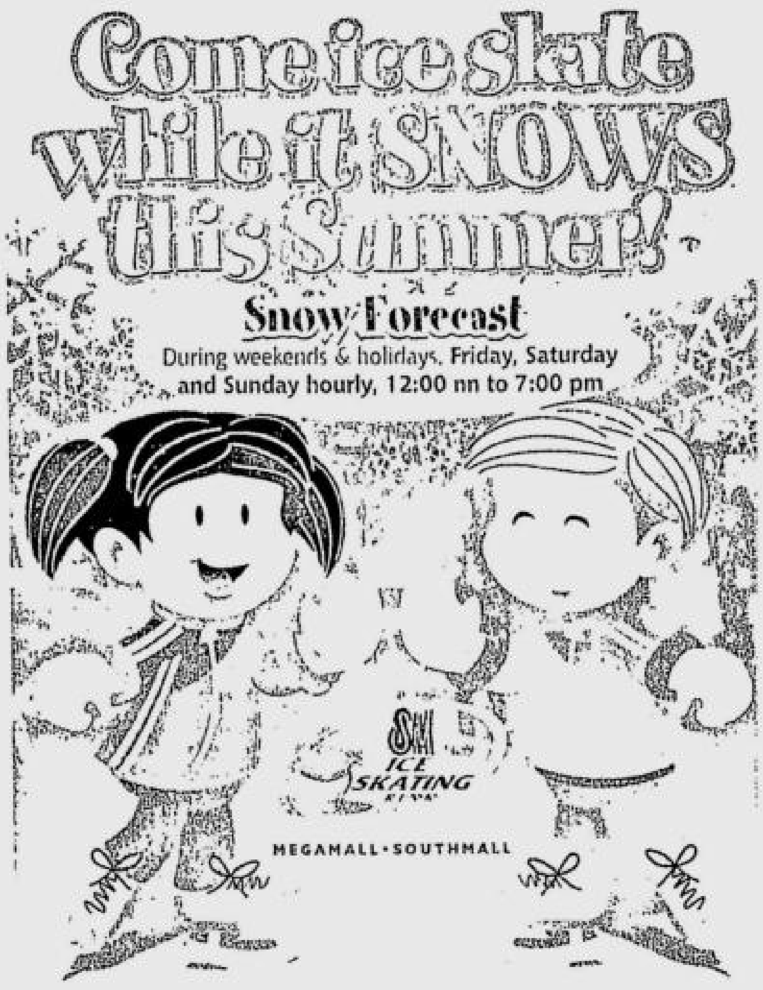
ROBI G3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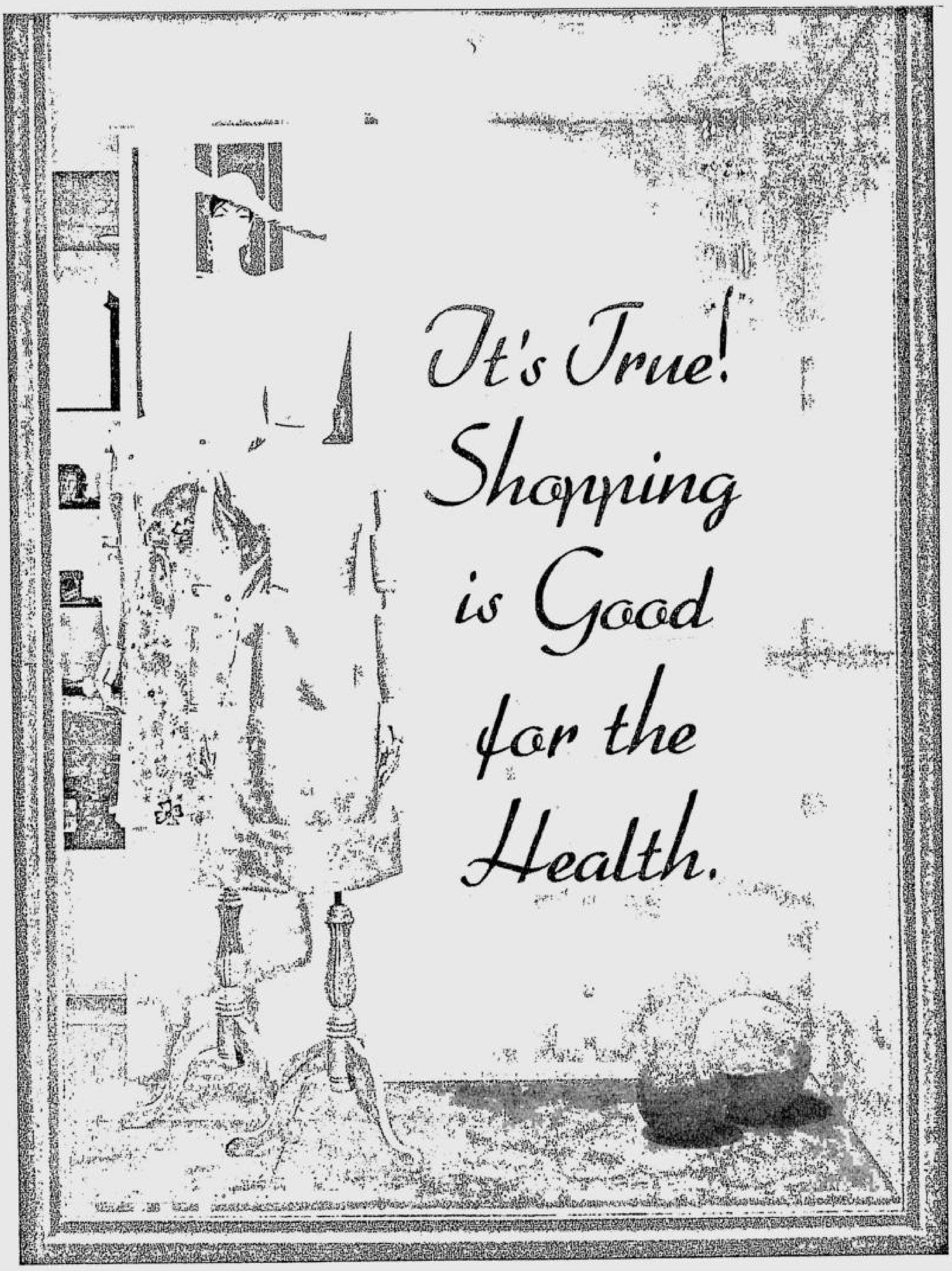

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Special film treats on Hallmark

MONTAGE

FLIGHTS of cinematic fancy characterize the Hallmark Channel's special viewing treats this month. On April 17 and 18, "Wrinkle in Time" tells of two children of a physicist who travel through space and time to rescue their father.

On April 22 and 23, "Jack" is a coming-of-age drama that teaches young viewers that life isn't so simple, after all. Stockard Channing and Ron Silver co-star with fresh talents Anton Yelchin and Britt Irvin.

On April 29 and 30, "Short Circuit II" has cute robot Johnny Five staging a comeback to help his inventor in his electronic business.

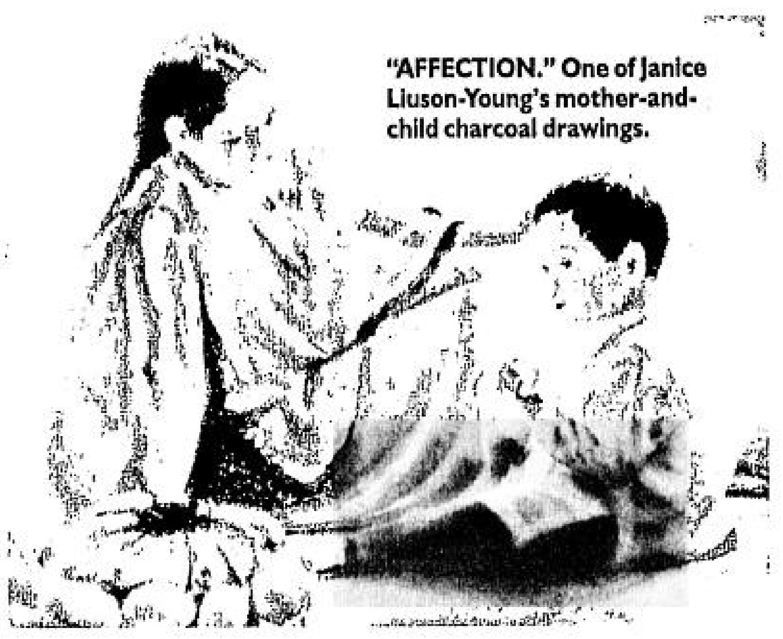
'Birthright'

For her second solo exhibit, "Birthright," Janice Liuson-Young presents 20 charcoal drawings on the mother and child theme from May 8 to 21 at Gallery 828, Level 4, Art Plaza, Shangri-La Plaza Mall. (Tel. no. 637-5995) Beneficiary is the PGH Pediatrics Ward.

Janice graduated cum laude from UP College of Fine Arts in 1986. Being a mother of four, her mother-and-child artworks are inspired by her personal experiences.

Distinguished painter and art educator Araceli Limcaco-Dans observes: "Janice's years of training has helped her evolve a style that is both realistic and original. Her spontaneous, sweeping strokes reveal a virtuosity and crispness of style that touch viewers' sensibilities!"

MAKSIM. Classical crossover artist with rock-star status.



"AFFECTION." One of Janice Liuson-Young's mother-and-child charcoal drawings.

Maksim in Manila

Maksim Mrvica has attained rock-star status as an acclaimed classical crossover artist with many fans worldwide. On April 20, he weaves his piano wizardry at the CCP (call 891-1999).

In addition, EMI Philippines has released Maksim's "Special Tour Edition" album on CD, featuring remixes of "The Flight of the Bumblebee" and "Sarabande," plus six videos and a photo gallery.

Digital/SLR photoworkshop

The Mandy Navasero Summer Photoworkshop 2004 starts today and ends on May 29. Lectures will be held every Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m.

Topics include camera operations for both 35mm SLR and digital; basic principles of light and exposure; photography as composition; lenses and glossaries, and tips for aspiring photographers. Weekly assignments are given in portraiture, line, abstraction, shapes and objects, and light and texture.

At the end of the workshop, participants will present their photos in an exhibit *cum* graduation. Call 899-1767.

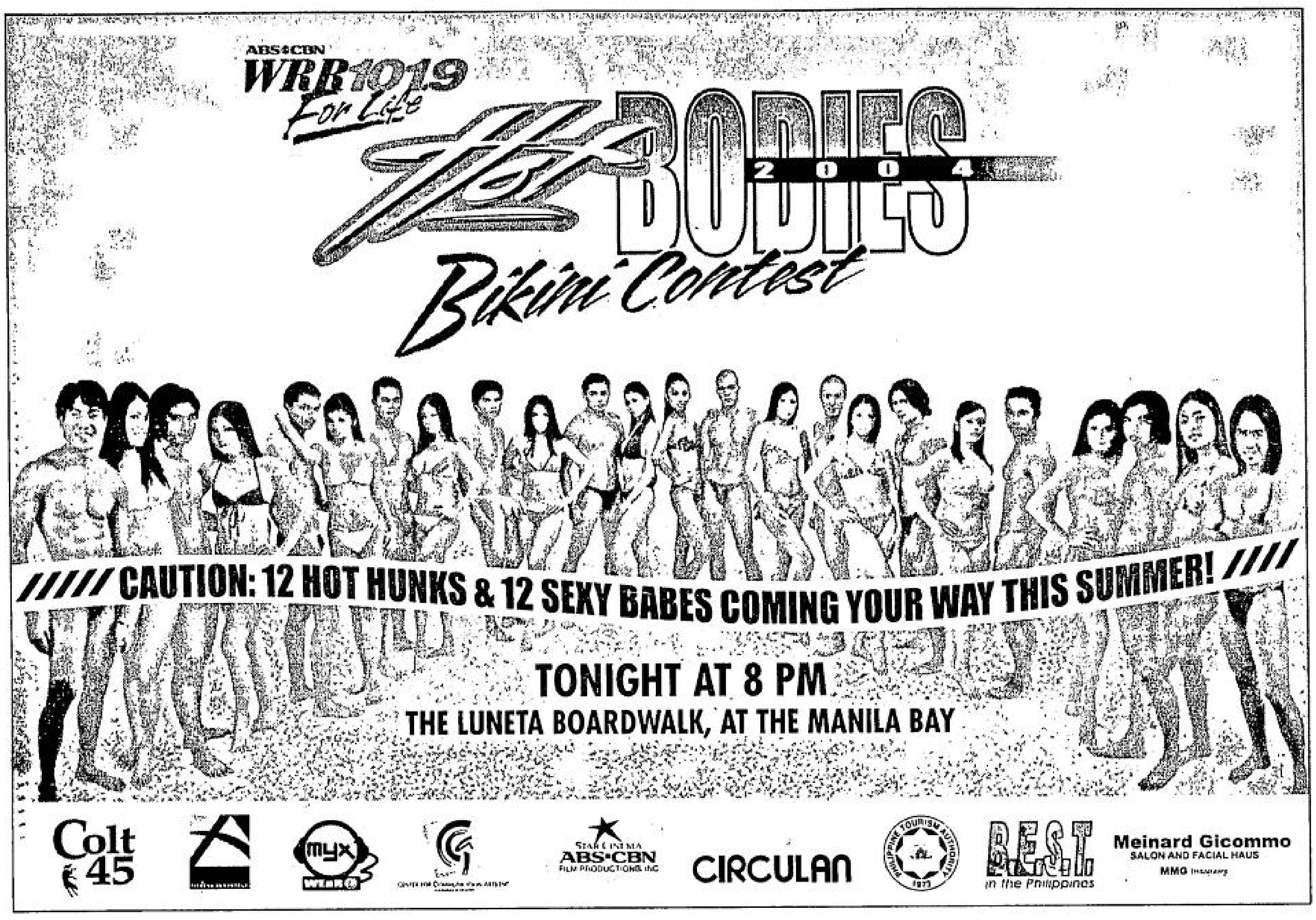
Summer art workshop

Ad Infinitum Galleries holds an art workshop for budding artists starting April 17. The workshop's eight sessions will consist of morning and afternoon classes from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 6 p.m., taught by well-known visual artists and art teachers. Call 726-9015.

Bimbo Cerrudo in benefit concert

Concert and recording artist Bimbo Cerrudo is back on the concert stage in a benefit show for the Villa Señores Foundation, established to improve

SPECIAL/ G3



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Children shouldn't be made to mimic foreign singers

By Nestor U. Torre

ON a recent noontime telecast, we caught a competition that required the *bulilit* contestants to sing, look and move like adult pop stars like Madonna and J.Lo. This is the same tilt that we watched sometime ago, in which the competition that day was won by a diminutive rapper who was trying to pass himself off as a *bulilit* Eminem, complete with caustic comments and downbeat attitude.

The studio audience lapped up the kids' xerox antics, and that wasn't surprising because, for a number of colonial-minded reasons, we Filipinos just love to imitate foreign show biz icons, down to their last yelp and idiosyncratic signature gesture.

Pop-culture imitation

We also love making kids perform, so this combination of slavish pop-culture imitation and cute-kid appeal makes the *bulilit* pop star competition a local crowd-pleaser.

But we should take the imitation bit with more than a grain of salty self-evaluation, because our colonial mentality is one of the pieces of cultural excess baggage that continue to weigh us down and impede our progress as a people.

And we should sense that we aren't all that cute and delightful when we coach our children to look and perform like sexy and downbeat show biz icons from abroad.

Children should perform like kids, not wear revealing dresses and heavy make-up, and scream and wail like pint-sized nymphets.

Cultural dependence

When we make them perform in this imitative manner, we are transferring our own colonial mentality to the next generation, and thus perpetuating the negative effects of our cultural dependence on foreign standards and attitudes.

J. LO AND MADONNA. Do our kids need to sing, look and move like them?

Decades ago, the precursors were the "Frank Sinatra and Joni James of the Philippines" kind of talent competition. Today, it's aping Eminem and J. Lo and their ilk—only now, it's children who are doing it. That's compounding the minus points, with no end in sight.

> 'Our colonial mentality is one of the pieces of cultural excess baggage that impede our progress as a people'

We owe it to succeeding generations to do our best to cut the chain that has bound us to our colonizers' standards for many years. We must give them enough confidence in themselves to express themselves as they are, not in relation to a standard of excellence imposed on us by other cultures.

Creativity

If our children learn that being themselves is good enough, and even wonderful, it could open up heretofore constricted areas of creativity and expression that could energize our cultural scene in unexpected and exciting ways.

It will definitely be more creative than just imitating a foreign performer's act down to its smallest detail. We may become the most precise imitators of Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake in the country, but what's the good, and where's the future, in that?

So, let those *bulilits* remain children, and Filipinos, and don't make them ape those foreign show biz icons! They should have much more going for them than churning out ga-ga copies of cultural detritus from overseas.

CERRUDO. Singing for charity.

Special film . . .

From page G2

the quality of life of elders, retirees and orphans through programs that maximize their productivity, on April 17, 8 p.m., at the Patio Hall Camp Aguinaldo. Also performing with Bimbo is the Onda Latina Band.

Movies on TV

On HBO, April 17 at 10:20 p.m., "I Am Sam." April 18 at 1:15 p.m., "Shrek." April 19 at 4 p.m., "The Laramie Project." April 20 at 10:45 a.m., "Lost in America." April 21 at 9 p.m., "America's Sweethearts." April 22 at 9:45 a.m., "The Masque of the Red Death." April 23 at 6 p.m., "Orange County."

On Cinemax, April 17 at 6 a.m., "Boys on the Side." April 18 at 7 p.m., "Enemy at the Gates." April 19 at 9 p.m., "Mad Dog and Glory." April 20 at 7:30 a.m., "Mackenna's Gold." April 21 at 5:45 p.m., "Memphis Belle." April 22 at 3 p.m., "Thoroughly Modern Millie." April 23 at 7:30 a.m., "Born on the Fourth of July."

Robi Rosa . . .

From page G1

He also wrote "She Bangs" and other hits for the singer.

Martin's crossover success helped create a Latin music boom and made Rosa one of the most sought-after songwriters. But the more his popularity grew for writing hits, the more disenchanted Rosa became.

"There wasn't any passion, and when there's no passion, there's no love—it's like a relationship. You're going to run yourself into the ground," he said. "It wasn't good for me."

Attention

So once again, he poured his attention into his own projects. Besides working on solo albums (the Spanish-language, "Libertad del Alma," was released in 2001), he built his own company, Phantom Vox, which not only incorporates his studios of the same name, but art projects, and even artist management.

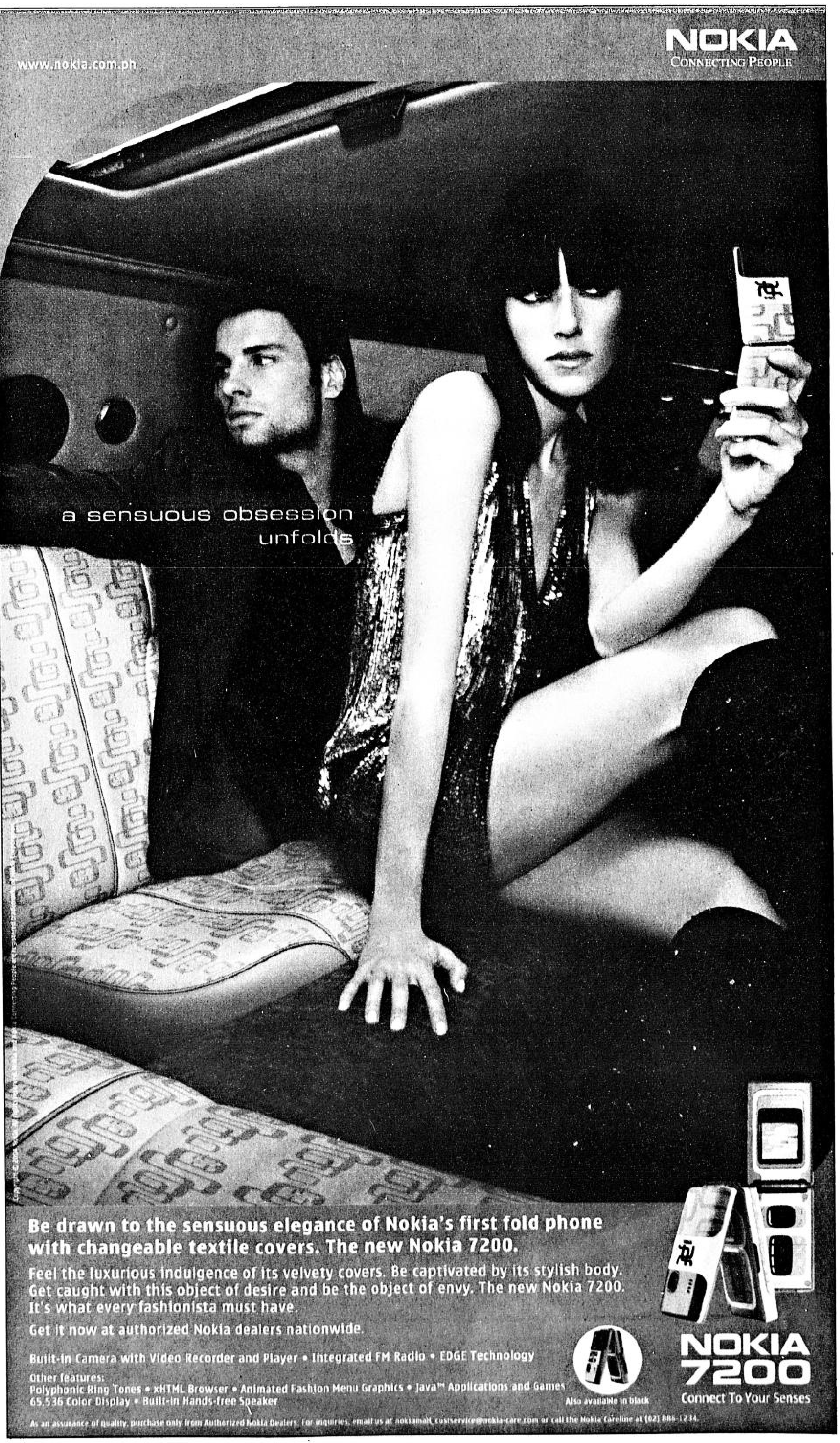
Rosa's passion is evident when he talks—he truly lights up when the conversation revolves around his music, and deflects questions or gives short shrift about other extraneous topics, like the Latin pop boom and bust.

He's also not easily satisfied. That was clear at a recent showcase in New York City, packed with fans, industry insiders and media. Twice, Rosa stopped the show and became testy with band members because he was unsatisfied with the sound, though whatever problem there was was probably unrecognizable to the crowd.

"It's very hard to please Robi. He doesn't like everything and everyone," says Afanasieff. "But, he's one of those who will inherit the earth."

Still, Rosa insists he's doesn't want the world—just the opportunity for more people on it to hear his songs.

"What is the spotlight? I don't know what that means," he replies when asked if he's ready to step back into it. "I do know I'd like to go around the world and share the music." **AP**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Hits outweigh misses in Janet's sleek, new album

By Rito P. Asilo

IN the title track of Janet Jackson's latest album, "Damita Jo," and, again, toward the end of "Like You Don't Love Me," she asks: "When you look at me, do you think I'm that person that you watch on TV?/ There's another side that I don't hide, but may never show." A writer from a top music magazine snidely answers: "The left breast!"

Funny. But, what is *not* amusing is the irony that surrounds the release of Janet's follow-up to 2001's "All For You." When a controversy becomes bigger than—and ultimately overshadows—a singer's work, it doesn't bode well for artistic credibility. Ask J. Lo or Whitney Houston.

Whoever masterminded the Super Bowl fiasco may not have anticipated the backlash that followed the "wardrobe malfunction" incident that had Justin Timberlake "accidentally" exposing Jackson's nipple-capped right breast.

Not long after the hubbub, Janet lost the Lena Horne biopic. Consequently, the incident also spurred widespread censorship, and five-minute telecast delays, on a number of American TV and radio shows—all because of one publicity stunt gone awry!

Quality

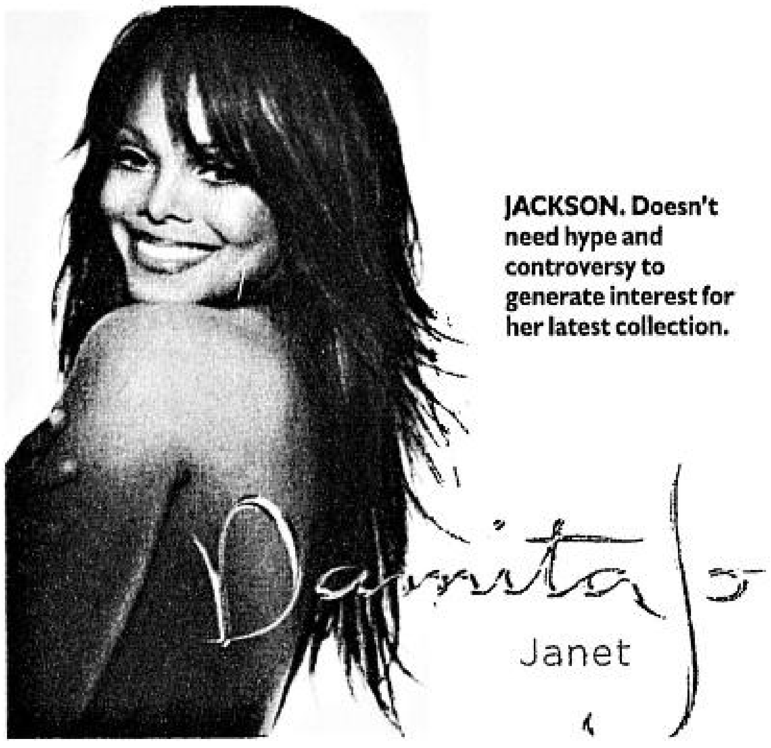
On point of quality, "Damita Jo," which debuts this week at the No. 2 spot behind Usher's two-week-old "Confessions" on the Billboard 200 album chart, doesn't need hype and controversy to inspire interest.

It is a solid, sleekly-produced, generally delightful compilation that deftly displays the strengths of the 37-year-old musical icon who has found her distinctive style in elegantly punchy tracks that complement rather than drown out her thin vocal pipes.

Hip-hop aesthetics

The new album merges the slick, groovesome Jimmy Jam-Terry Lewis sound that has made Janet a chartbusting force to reckon with since 1986's "Control" with the contemporary hip-hop aesthetics of rap's latest boy wonder, Kanye West.

Sampling musical elements from Jay-Z's "Can I Get A" (in "Sexhibition"), Herbie Hancock's "Hang Up Your Hang Lips" ("All Night, Don't Stop"), Evelyn "Champagne" King's "I'm In Love" ("R&B Junkie"), and Bacharach and David's "(They Long to Be) Close to You" ("I Want You") further lend freshness and musical vigor to familiar but smartly deconstructed hooks. Her four-part cooing harmony is as seamless as ever.



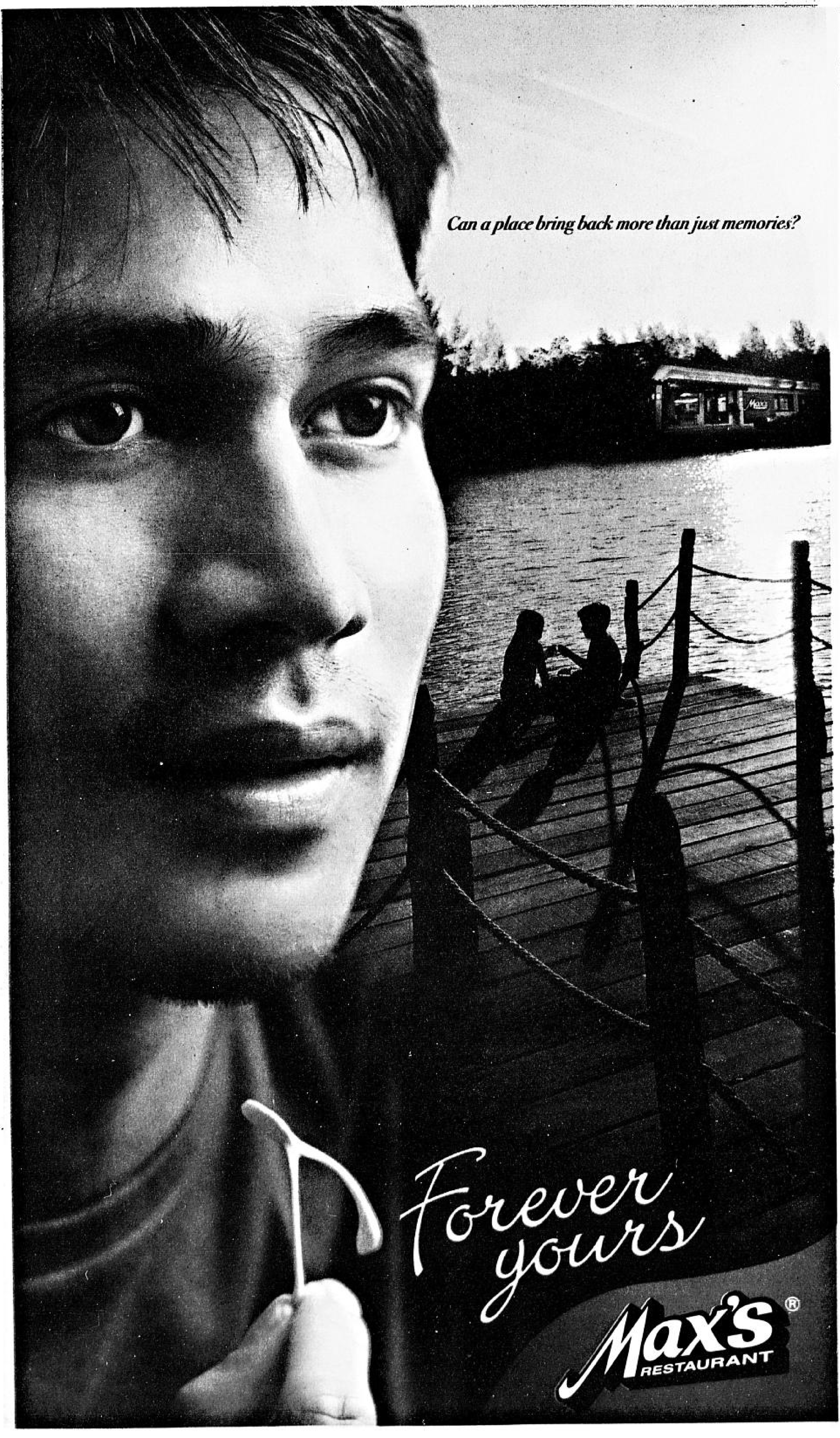
JACKSON. Doesn't need hype and controversy to generate interest for her latest collection.

The 22-track CD may not be as intimate as 1997's "The Velvet Rope," or as sensual as 1993's "janet," but there are enough hits to cancel out the misses ("Like You Don't Love Me" and the excruciatingly repetitive "Warmth").

Collaboration

There's much to be pleased about: The nagging, buoyant thumps of "Strawberry Bounce"; Glenn Jeffery's guitars in Janet's blistering collaboration with West, "My Baby"; the ultra-funky "R&B Junkie"; Cathy Dennis' sweeping "Island Life"; the violin-tinged "I Want You"; the cozy, snuggle-inducing "Spending Time With You"; Babyface's delectable "Thinkin' 'Bout My Ex"; Dallas Austin's catchy alternative-rock number, "Just A Little While," and the fun but not facile Bag and Arnthor-arranged "Slolove."

Janet, however, embarrasses herself in the bawdy, aurally pornographic "Moist." You have to listen to its crass lyrics to believe it! If her intention is to remanufacture the lush, sensual elegance of "That's the Way Love Goes" and the dreamy, moody allure of "20 Foreplay," whispering sexually explicit inanities is not the way to go about it. "Moist," which boasts of omnipresent cooing, moaning and sighing, is not sexy, cuddly or cute—it's simply masturbatory—and we don't mean that metaphorically.


Can a place bring back more than just memories?
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Food tripper's paradise

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH—It was my first trip to John Stockton and Karl Malone's home state, Utah. The place has rows of fast-food stores and supermarkets: Walmart, Target, McDonald's, Carl's Jr., Burger King, Taco Bell, Wendy's.

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

Tessa and I were there for her training at E-bay. We spent the rest of our free time exploring this undiscovered food paradise.

First stop

Our first stop was a fine dining restaurant called Carvers, which boasted of an award-winning Prime Rib of Beef. Tessa had a Steak Oscar, which is grilled U.S.D.A. Choice tenderloin beef cooked medium and topped with *béarnaise* sauce and flaked crab meat.

Surprisingly, the crab meat blended well with the beef and a delicious French sauce. I had the Roast Prime Rib with *au jus* and some rosti potatoes. Delicious with a glass of Cabernet!

Breakfast was also a food trip. We would go to Denny's or Ihop (International House of Pancakes), America's version of Pancake House, where we would order the good, old American breakfast: Three fried eggs, two sausages, two strips of bacon and four pieces of French toast with butter and Maple syrup.

Bitos is a Mexican restaurant that serves the usual burritos, chimichangas and soft tacos. They have different fillings for these wraps: chicken, beef or carnitas or pork. The tortillas are shiny, chewy and toasted on a top grill, with fillings of guacamole, onions, cilantro and refried beans. You may add chili green, or the more spicy red sauce. This meal makes your nose perspire!

Fish house

We also visited a fish house called Mc Grath's. Here, we ordered clam chowder, which was too thick. You could smell the aroma of the bacon on the soup.

As an appetizer, we had an artichoke dip. Now, it's a staple in many American restaurants. Our main course was a seafood platter of fried scallops, clams, shrimp and cod, Alaskan king crab legs, with tomato salsa and tartare sauce. Delicious!

For our last dinner there, we dined at a Chinese restaurant P.J. Chang. But, it makes a big difference when you've experienced authentic cuisines from Hong Kong, Vancouver or San Francisco.

Happy eating!

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Super!Countdown

23 days 'til the Vote!

SATURDAY Super

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Contributing Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

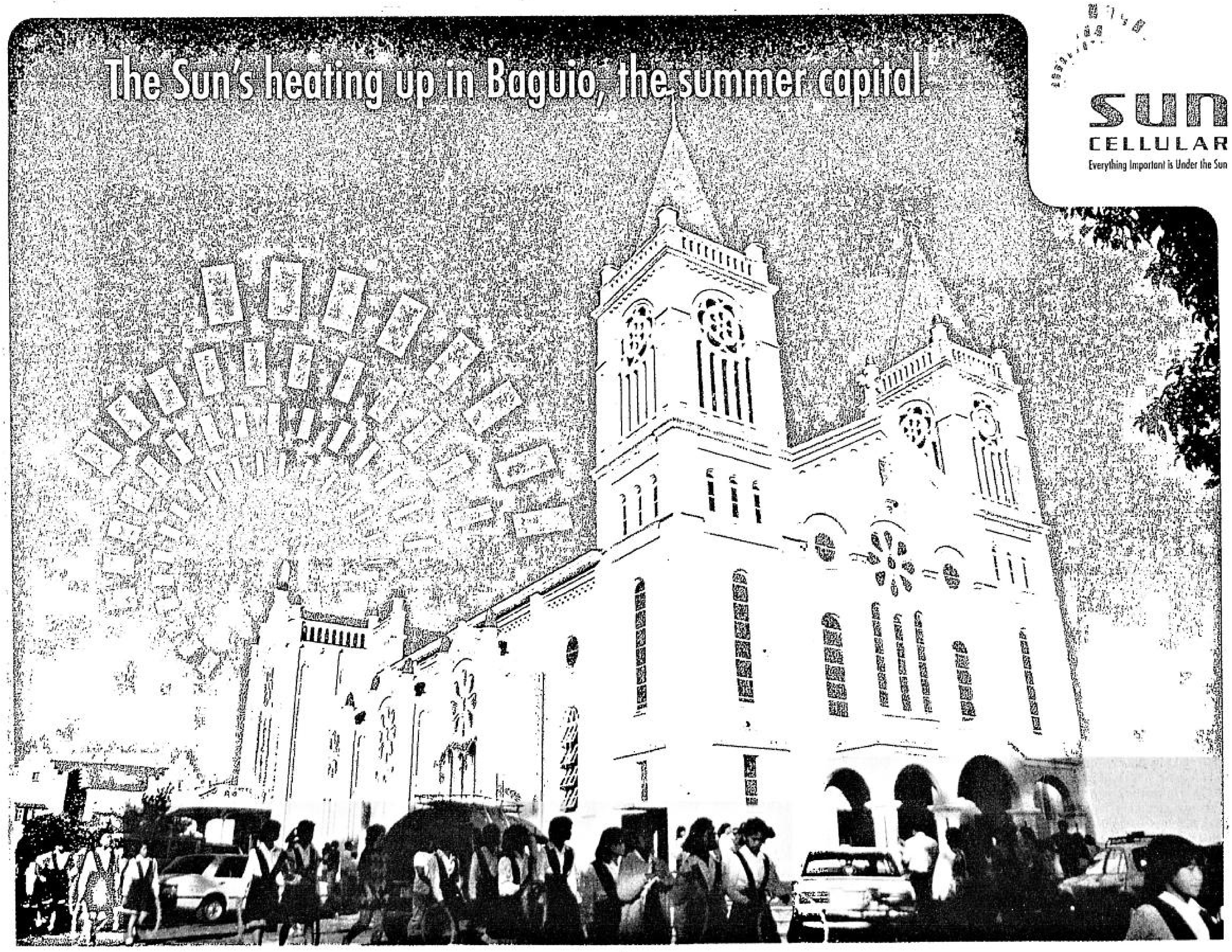
hung over

Piolo vs Jericho page H2

Addicts Anonymous page J1

Make way for ABC 5 page K1

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: PAOLO PINEDA
Cover Star: PIOLO PASCUAL
and JERICHO ROSALES
in i2i EYEWEAR



The Sun's heating up in Baguio, the summer capital.
sun
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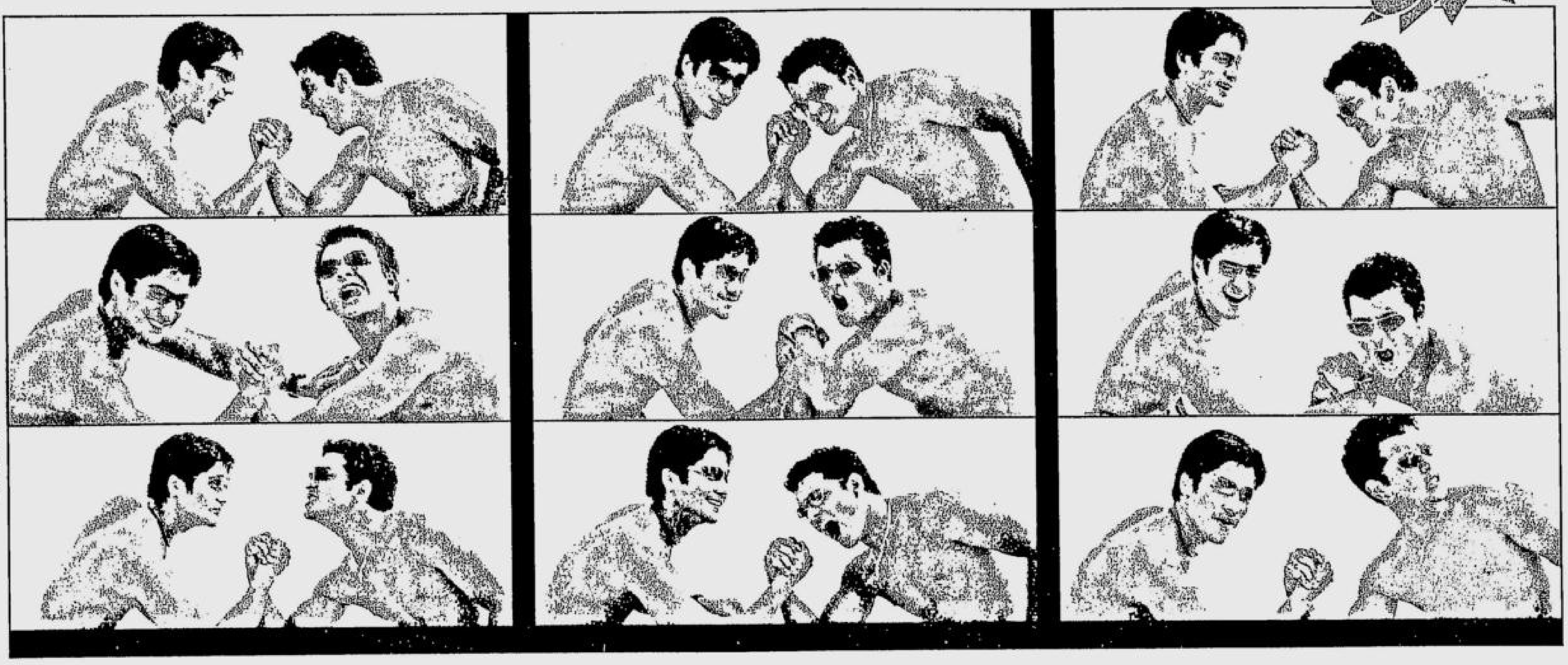
In Baguio, people are seeing the light of one Sun. Soon, so will the rest of the country.

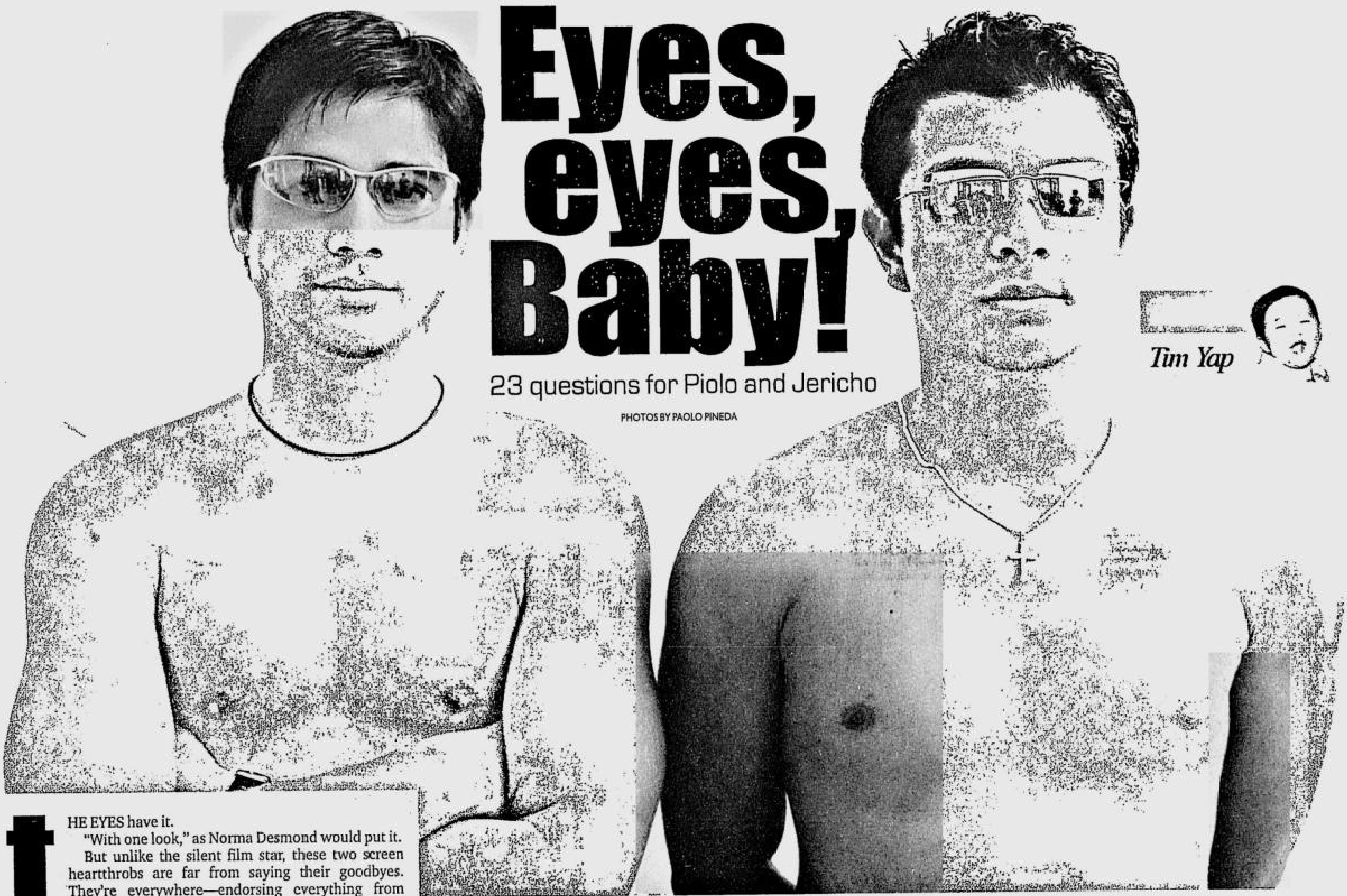


Eyes, eyes, Baby!

23 questions for Piolo and Jericho

PHOTOS BY PAOLO PINEDA

Tim Yap



THE EYES have it.

"With one look," as Norma Desmond would put it.

But unlike the silent film star, these two screen heartthrobs are far from saying their goodbyes. They're everywhere—endorsing everything from fried chicken to telecom firms to sports wear. They embody everything that's male—from the sensitive boy-next-door type to the metrosexual in all of us.

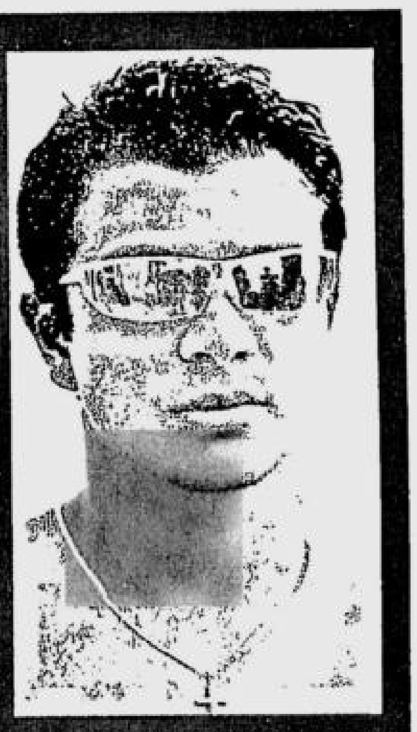
With rising-fashion-diva-turned-TV-personality Phoemela Barranda (who now hosts "Extra Challenge" with Paolo Bediones), they make up the gallery of eyes that don i2i—that chameleon eyewear brand that's as synonymous to anonymous (the shop) when it comes to eye candy.

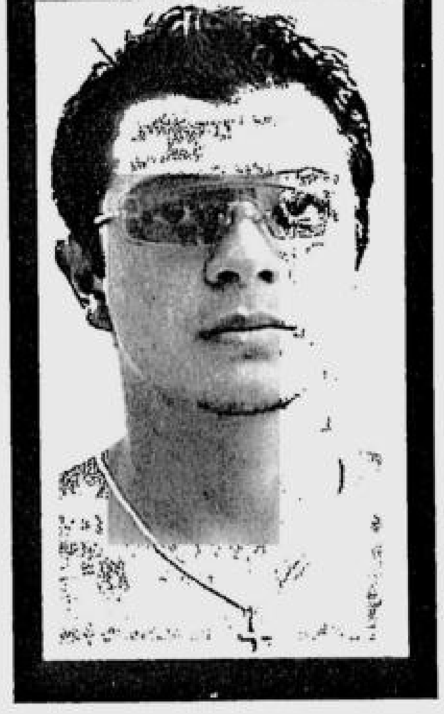
And so, in this exclusive shoot for Super! we probe the two hunks with our i-D one-on-two Q and A and see for ourselves if there's more than meets the eye.

Piolo Pascual

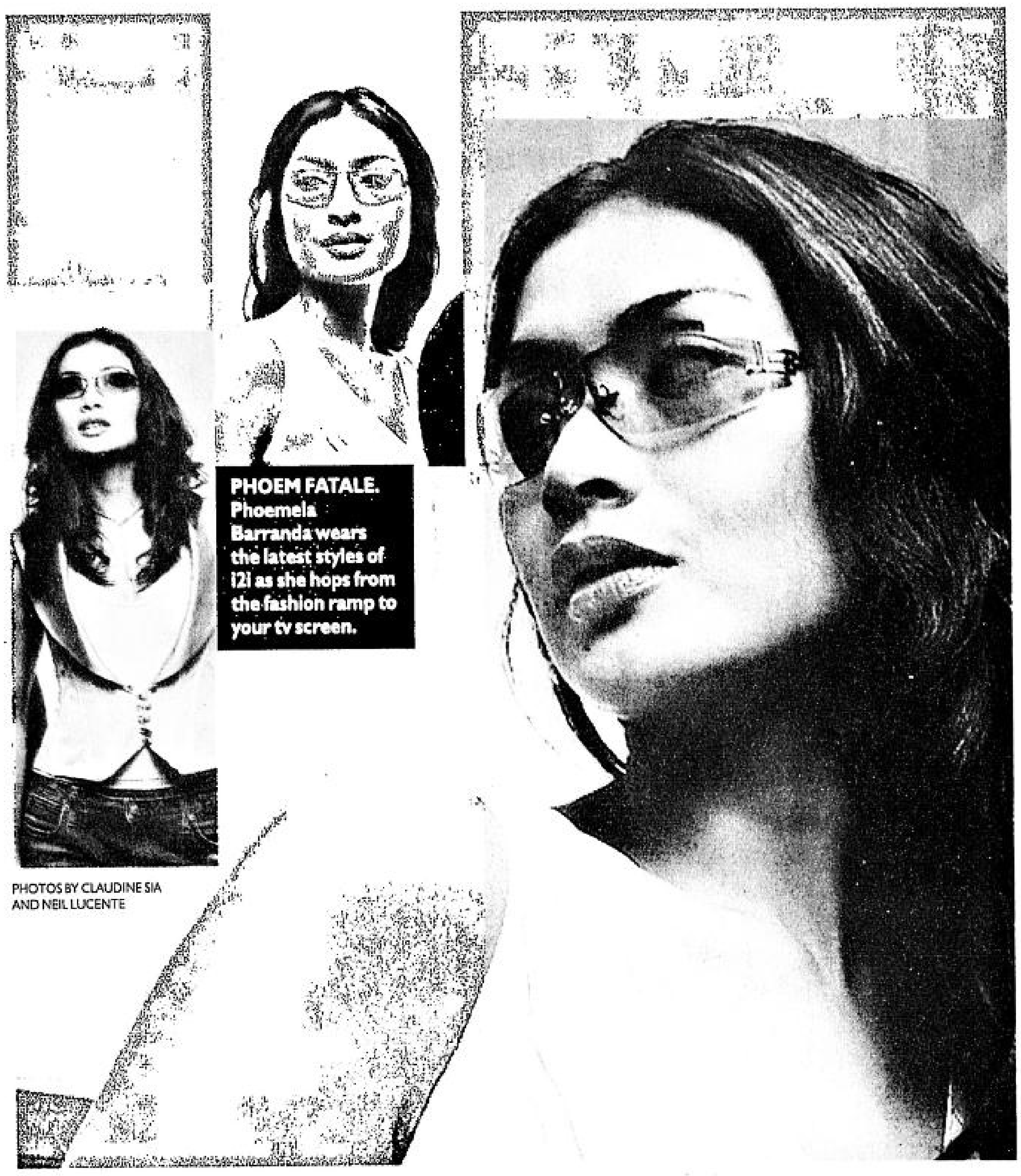
1) The thing about fame is ... **not having it when one wants it and having it when one doesn't want it.**
2) What I love most about what I do is ... **I am able to enjoy the things I really like to do.**
3) People might be surprised to know that ... **I am sometimes *makulit* and funny.**
4) The most important thing I've learned is ... **one must always keep the faith.**
5) I wish that when I started, I'd been told that ... **this job can be really difficult.**
6) The worst thing that ever happened to me was ... **nothing that serious, thank goodness!**
7) And what this taught me was ... **NA.**
8) The happiest moments of my life are ... **the times when my family is complete.**
9) The secret to happiness is ... **peace, fulfillment and being close to God.**
10) My best-ever outfit is ... **a suit.**
11) My super Saturday night consists of ... **resting, no work.**
12) The soundtrack of my life would be ... **Cinema Paradiso.**
13) If I were invisible for a day ... **I would fly.**
14) If I were the most powerful person on earth ... **I'd work on world peace.**
15) My vote goes to ... **Brother Eddie and Loren.**
16) The best thing about family is ... **it completes you.**
17) When I'm gone they'll probably say ... **I don't know.**
18) If money were no object ... **I would be travelling.**
19) When I retire I would like to ... **stay on my own island and have a beachfront home.**
20) The world would be a much better place if ... **everyone's happy.**
21) My hero is ... **God.**
22) The thing that makes life worth living is ... **having faith.**
23) My greatest hope for the future is ... **for the Philippines be a better nation.**

Jericho Rosales





1) The thing about fame is ... **you get a lot of privileges and perks.**
2) What I love most about what I do ... **are the challenges that go with it.**
3) People might be surprised to know that ... **I am very simple. I eat in carinderias!**
4) The most important thing I've learned is ... **that too much love can kill you.**
5) I wish that, when I started I'd been told ... **that it would get to a point when I would be so busy, I wouldn't have time for myself.**
6) The worst thing that ever happened to me was ... **my emotions were tweaked.**
7) And what this taught me was ... **to relax.**
8) The happiest moment of my life was ... **in Hawaii, surfing!**
9) The secret to happiness is ... **to be simple.**
10) My best-ever outfit consisted of ... **tattered jeans, white shirt and sneakers.**
11) My super Saturday night consists of ... **resting, a night without work.**
12) The soundtrack of my life would be ... **sung by The Cascades.**
13) If I were invisible for a day, I would ... **go to the Central bank and check how much money the country has, or go through the secret files of the presidential candidates.**
14) If I were the most powerful person on earth... **I'd crush all the dysfunctional vehicles on earth to lessen air pollution.**
15) My vote goes to ... **still undecided.**
16) The best thing about family is ... **being there for each other always.**
17) When I'm gone they'll probably say ... **"where is he?"**
18) If money were no object ... **I would burn it.**
19) When I retire I would like to ... **fly an airplane.**
20) This would be a much better place if ... **people would relieve themselves in the proper places.**
21) My heroes are ... **Spiderman and Kelly Slater.**
22) The thing that makes life worth living is ... **knowing that when you do good, you'll go to heaven. Yes, I believe in heaven!**
23) My greatest hope for the future is ... **equality for all.**



PHOEM FATALE. Phoemela Barranda wears the latest styles of i2i as she hops from the fashion ramp to your tv screen.

PHOTOS BY CLAUDINE SIA AND NEIL LUCENTE

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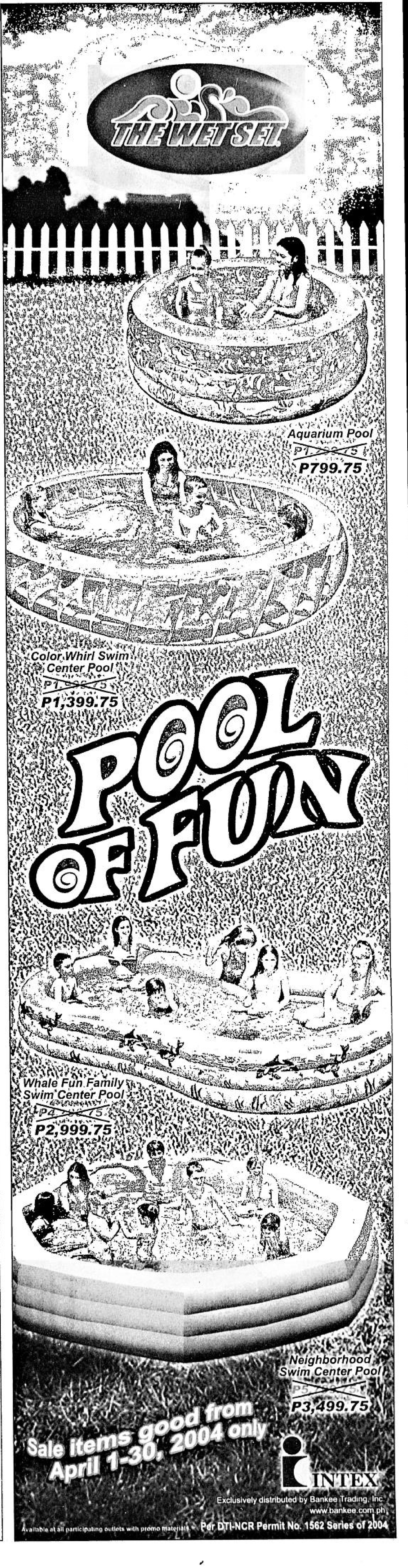
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Here comes the sun

Lemon-aide

Giselle Segovia

IT'S just so hard to believe these days that it's actually snowing in other parts of the world. Not when you're in front of the air conditioner and the cold drift can't seem to seep through your skin fast enough. Not when it's 30 degrees out there in the sun. It wouldn't be such a nuisance for me, if not for the fact that I'm no longer a student. I had joined the workforce immediately after I graduated from college, and the summer season has all but lost its appeal. It has become just another couple of months of work—or sending regrets after invitations to enticing beach excursions and such. Ah, if only the Pasig River hadn't turned out they way it did ... Tsk..tsk.. no use crying over spilt milk, or spoiled water.

Great thing for doomed city dwellers such as yours truly, our hands may be tied to responsibilities but there are other ways to enjoy the summer. Take an art class, study another language, or get a pet. These probably wouldn't help much in the temperature department, but hey, anything to distract us from the scorching heat!

If sloth gets in the way, as the sun can make everyone quite lazy, well ... you can just do the party scene each and every night ... right?

Saturday, April 17

Filipino R&B sensation Jay-R is performing live at the Music Museum. Tonight is the final run of his three-day "GAMEFACE" concert. I'm a little curious about this guy. I saw him in Church during Holy Week and it sort of threw me a bit. Tickets are available at Ticketworld outlets. For more information, dial 721-6726.

Sunday, April 18

This is the last chance for basketball enthusiasts to join the Adidas Streetball Challenge 2004. Winners will win cool prizes and a chance to compete at the Asian Streetball Finals in Seoul, Korea. Check out the SM Megamall Parking Grounds. Better yet, call Team Venture ahead for the mechanics and requirements, at 400-9745.

Monday, April 19

Here is another interesting cinematic narrative on the Jesus Christ. Watch a special screening of Robert Nery's "Black Nazarene," presented by the Australian Embassy Manila, in cooperation with the Philippine-Australia Studies Network (Ateneo Chapter) and Green Papaya Art Projects. Open to the public. A forum conducted by Nery follows the screening. Call 426-6068 or 757-8135 for details.

Tuesday, April 20

It's the second to the last day for everyone to see Alpha Camera Club's "Nostalgia: Laguna, Images of the Past, Captured at Present." The exhibit presents black-and-white photographs of century-old historical churches and houses in quaint Laguna province. The prints are on display at the Alcove, Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Ave. Makati City.

Wednesday, April 21

Get a taste of the colorful culture of Brazil from now till the 24th, when the Escola Brasileira de Capoeira Philippines, the country's only school of the Brazilian martial art of *capoeira*, will hold exhibitions from today until Friday, 7:30p.m. at the North Court of Power Plant (in front of Marks & Spencer) in Rockwell. This will be a sneak peek for its very first *batizado* or graduation ceremony, where masters from Brazil will fly in this May to hold capoeira street games and workshops culminating in a grand show on May 8. Everyone is invited to watch the free demos! Volvo and Power Plant Mall are sponsors of these demo series. For inquiries, log on to: www.ebcphilippines.com

Thursday, April 22

Catch the last day of "Paradox on Silence," Briccio Santos' collection of black-and-white photographs shot as he explored the streets of Paris. At the Magnet Gallery Makati, Ground Floor, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas corner Sedeno St. Makati City. Call Malou for details at 817-7895.

Friday, April 23

Listen to a unique sound: the fusion of eastern music with western influences on popular jazz pieces, at the same time introducing Israeli Music. Seeds of Sun, the Israeli group, is coming, and here and this night is their last performance in celebration of Israel's 56th Independence Day. Ring up 894-0441 for more information.

Word for the bored:

"I hate every year I get older. I don't want all the full responsibilities of being an adult yet."—Mischa Barton (the sultry vamp reportedly seen constantly with co-star Benjamin Mackenzie and party animal Brandon Davis, just turned 18.)

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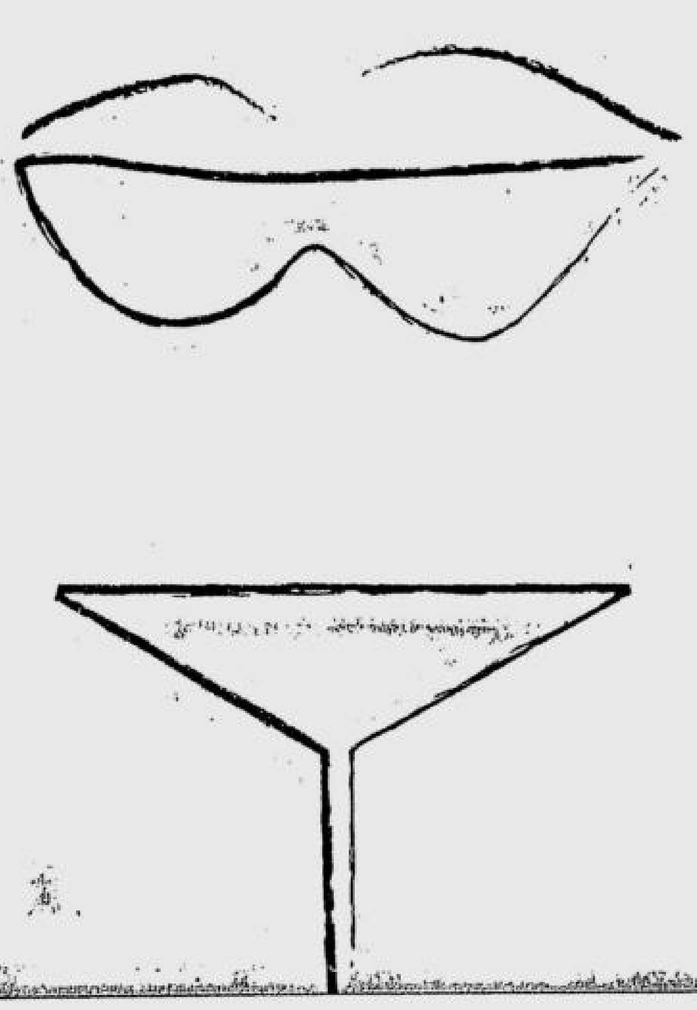

This summer, be a looker

with the hottest fashion trends at the Greenhills shopping Center.

Look cool with the latest pair of shades, or don that sexy g-string and be the gang's hottest babe. Everything you need to be this summer's looker are all here at the Summer Bangketa Fair of Greenhills Shopping Center. You'll never run out of choices, with over 1,000 stalls of assorted summer goodies at affordable prices.

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SATURDAY Super 2

Let's get lost

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

> *"Maybe I'll go traveling for a year,*
> *Finding myself or start a career...*
> *Love ain't the answer nor is work,*
> *The truth eludes me so much it hurts.*
> *But I'm still having fun and I guess that's the key,*
> *I'm a twentysomething and I'll keep being me."* —Jamie Cullum, "Twentysomething"

APART from taking in the usual attractions in the world's most interesting destinations, I've recently taken up a hobby that requires a bit more brain power: tourist-spotting. In our little global ghetto, everyone's a traveler in one way or another. So does your wanderlust make you a road warrior, a sage backpacker, or an urban hedonist? Would you rather carve your own path, go down a tourist trap, or happily do both? Since traveling is not a one-size-fits-all activity, forget frontin', take this random survey, and find out just how much—or how little—you get around.

1) The movie that most resembles your life as a voyager is:

a. "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York." Despite booking your trip months ahead to make sure all goes well, Murphy's Law still manages to throw you a curve ball and how.

b. "The Beach." Grungy, sexy, cool: the only words that describe your current state of mind. Pass the ganja, dude!

c. "Before Sunrise." Chatting up total strangers and blabbing about serious metaphysical marginalia while stranded in Eastern Europe is right up your alley.

d. "Roman Holiday." To you, Vespas, *gelati*, and pigeon droppings make Rome wonderful and quite enchanting.

LET'S GET/14

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Let's get lost

Take this quiz to see how much—or how little—you get around

From page II

2) In your opinion, the best travel advice comes from:

a. The bullhorn of your extremely enthusiastic tour guide. With thousands served, how can you go wrong?

b. A dog-eared copy of Rough Guide. If you were an SUV, this would be your GPS.

c. Drunk but friendly locals. The horrible breath and rotten teeth only add to the charm.

d. A Louis Vuitton city guide. You've got the best. Who cares about the rest?

3) Topping your list of travel essentials is/are:

a. A beat-up belt bag.

b. Clean underwear and maybe some Red Bull.

c. A book of poems by Emily Dickinson.

d. A platinum card and a Vertu mobile phone.

4) Your summer holiday mantra is:

a. "Are we there yet?"

b. "What about the travel advisory?"

c. "Love is all around…"

d. "It ain't a thing without the bling!"

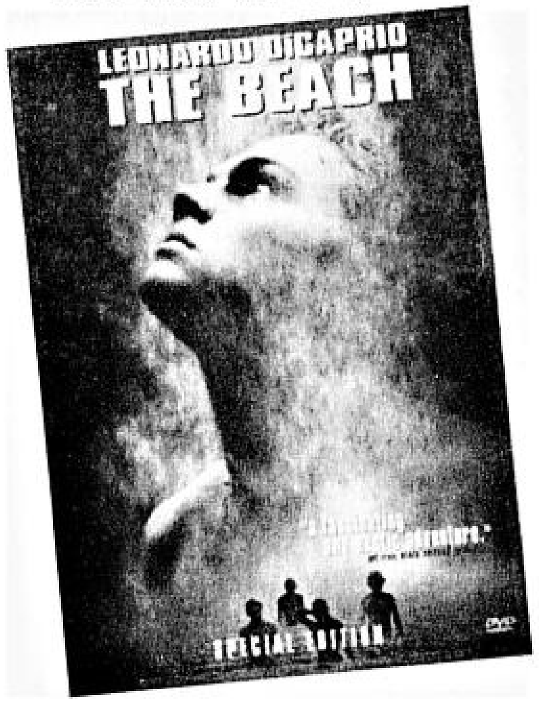
5) The first thing you do as soon as you're checked in is:

a. Order room service together with a pay-per-view movie. It's time to call it a night.

b. Bathe or search for a laundromat. They can sniff you from across the border!

c. Sob lightly and wish you were with someone really special. Awww…

d. Head out and air kiss the beautiful people in the city's swishy-est martini bar. You have arrived!



ethan hawke
julie delpy
BEFORE SUNRISE
two thumbs up.

6) The journey is as important as the destination, so you prefer to move around:

a. In an air-conditioned double-decker Hato tour bus. Nothing beats a real toilet.

b. Atop a truck, with assorted produce and/or livestock. Nothing beats the sun on your face and a cocktail of foreign aromas on everything else.

c. A gondola, or anything that's as swift as molasses spilling out of a jar. Nothing beats soaking up the sights one pixel at a time.

d. In business class, when a chartered jet is unavailable. Nothing beats free bubbly.

7) Your pilgrimage ultimately takes you to the distant shores of:

a. Family-friendly Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The Country Bear Jamboree rocks!

b. Exotic Rangoon, Myanmar since no one you know has been there yet.

c. Sunny Mallorca, Spain, the home of Camper shoes.

d. A-list Monte Carlo, Monaco. The Hilton sisters might make a cameo.

FROM JOHN HUGHES & CHRIS COLUMBUS
HOME ALONE 2
WET BANDITS ESCAPE!
DVD

8) After a few blissful days away from it all, you come home with:

a. An overpriced key chain from the airport.

b. A ton of new stamps in your passport and a deep tan.

c. More hickeys than a high school dance.

d. Yet another Bang and Olufsen telephone.

9) The kind of music that would sum up your trip is:

a. The lively chatter of Japanese tourists.

b. Bebel Gilberto's brand of neo bossa nova.

c. "Party Hard" by Andrew WK.

d. Chill house, jazz house, minimalist house—anything they play at the Hotel de la Poste in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

10) During a game of spin-the-bottle, you fess up that your dream travel companion is:

a. Mom, who else?

b. Patsy and Edina from "Absolutely Fabulous."

c. Ray Mears or Ian Wright, anyone but Flo from "The Amazing Race 3."

d. Your S.O., but of course.

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Answers

Mostly A's

Herd-style holidaymaker

The package tours you love are no different from the field trips you used to take in grade school. But instead of slashing the leather seats in the local planetarium, you now hack away at the spontaneity of independent travel. There's really nothing criminal with finding security in pre-programmed expeditions. Playing it too safe, however, can block the beam of experiences you can find only off the beaten track. A great trip involves equal doses of the predictable and the unforeseen, so learn to leave some things to the wind.

Mostly B's

Shoestring sightseer

With a pared down, hard-hat approach to seeing the planet, you make a complete about-face on everything else except the pursuit of the essential. Because of your built-in exploratory spirit, shoestring sightseers such as yourself are most likely to give up the trappings of comfort in order to savor the world in all its raw, vibrant, and oftentimes smelly, glory. Hey, we'll all see the same Eiffel Tower anyway, right? The downside to this zealous penny-pinching is your penchant for coming down with Delhi Belly as well as other bugs you can get while pounding back the local firewater.

Mostly C's

Romantic vacationer

As a hopelessly starry-eyed wanderer, you get your rocks off in a grove of ancient olive trees, under 16th-century stone doorways, and during the occasional power failure-medieval chic! Leaving the rat race behind, each journey you take is dreamy and satisfying, like one deliberately slow mechanical bull ride. Your inner Rachel Ashwell goes into overdrive as you pick up random keepsakes like pebbles, bottlecaps, and cracked Heineken ashtrays from your b&b. Don't be too sappy though. It's sometimes great to see the world without the mist.

Mostly D's

Posh spy

Montrez-moi l'argent! That's "Show me the money!" for all you non-frogs. As a posh.spy, your snob glands are extraordinarily dynamic and your ride is naturally first class all the way. Your sophistication, discernible from outer space, makes you a happening local wherever you go. You define "roughing it" as leaving home with only one piece of monogrammed luggage. You make up for your fussiness by tipping everyone generously, but watch out: money can't buy style, only the appearance of taste.

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Savvy Phones for the Fashionista

To match her many moods and fashions, users can choose from four unique Samsung phone models that come with a Globe Handyphone plan. There's the Samsung C100 dual band phone which features a 65K color screen display and enhanced JAVA technology for easy [illegible] downloads FREE on G-Talk or G-Flex 1200; the ergonomically designed Samsung X100 with the most vivid color screen available for MMS and an amazing 40 polyphonic sound FREE on G-Match or G-Flex 2500; the Samsung X600 which boasts a bar type multi-function phone with an integrated VGA Camera, complete with flash and lens that can rotate by 180 degrees—FREE on G-Match or G-Flex 2500; and the Samsung E700 model which is an attractive dual-band flip phone with a dual colored LCD and a built in camera with a multi shot function—FREE on Platinum Plan or G-Flex 5000.

Let's get lost

Take this quiz to see how much—or how little—you get around

From page 11

2) In your opinion, the best travel advice comes from:

a. The bullhorn of your extremely enthusiastic tour guide. With thousands served, how can you go wrong?

b. A dog-eared copy of Rough Guide. If you were an SUV, this would be your GPS.

c. Drunk but friendly locals. The horrible breath and rotten teeth only add to the charm.

d. A Louis Vuitton city guide. You've got the best. Who cares about the rest?

3) Topping your list of travel essentials is/are:

a. A beat-up belt bag.

b. Clean underwear and maybe some Red Bull.

c. A book of poems by Emily Dickinson.

d. A platinum card and a Vertu mobile phone.

4) Your summer holiday mantra is:

a. "Are we there yet?"

b. "What about the travel advisory?'

c. "Love is all around..."

d. "It ain't a thing without the bling!"

5) The first thing you do as soon as you're checked in is:

a. Order room service together with a pay-per-view movie. It's time to call it a night.

b. Bathe or search for a laundromat. They can sniff you from across the border!

c. Sob lightly and wish you were with someone really special. Awww.

d. Head out and air kiss the beautiful people in the city's swishy-est martini bar. You have arrived!

6) The journey is as important as the destination, so you prefer to move around:

a. In an air-conditioned double-decker Hato tour bus. Nothing beats a real toilet.

b. Atop a truck, with assorted produce and/or livestock. Nothing beats the sun on your face and a cocktail of foreign aromas on everything else.

c. A gondola, or anything that's as swift as molasses spilling out of a jar. Nothing beats soaking up the sights one pixel at a time.

d. In business class, when a chartered jet [illegible] unavailable. Nothing beats free bubbly.

7) Your pilgrimage ultimately takes you to the distant shores of:

a. Family-friendly Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The Country Bear Jamboree rocks!

b. Exotic Rangoon, Myanm[illegible] [illegible] or you know has been there yet.

c. Sunny Mallorca, Spain. [illegible] some Camper shoes

d. A-list Monte Carlo, Monaco. The Hilton sisters might make a cameo

HOME ALONE 2

8) After a few blissful days away from it all, you come home with:

a. An overpriced key chain from the airport.

b. A ton of new stamps in your passport and a deep tan.

c. More hickeys than a high school dance.

d. Yet another Bang and Olufsen telephone

9) The kind of music that would sum up your trip is:

a. The lively chatter of Japanese tourists

b. Bebel Gilberto's brand of neo bossa nova

c. "Party Hard" by Andrew WK.

d. Chill house, jazz house, minimalist house anything they play at the Hotel de la Poste in Cortina d'Ampe[illegible] Italy

10) During a game of spin-the-bottle, you fess up that your dream travel companion is:

Mom, who else?

[illegible] and Edina from "Absolutely Fabu[illegible]

[illegible] Ray Mears or Ian Wright, anyone but Flo from "The Amazing Race [illegible]."

[illegible] Your S.O., but of course

PARAMOUNT COLLECTION
GREGORY PECK
AUDREY HEPBURN
ROMAN HOLIDAY

Answers

Mostly A's

Herd-style holidaymaker

The package tours you love are no different from the field trips you used to take in grade school. But instead of slashing the leather seats in the local planetarium, you now hack away at the spontaneity of independent travel. There's really nothing criminal with finding security in pre-programmed expeditions. Playing it too safe, however, can block the beam of experiences you can find only off the beaten track. A great trip involves equal doses of the predictable and the unforeseen, so learn to leave some things to the wind.

Mostly B's

Shoestring sightseer

With a pared down, hard-hat approach to seeing the planet, you make a complete about-face on everything else except the pursuit of the essential. Because of your built-in exploratory spirit, shoestring sightseers such as yourself are most likely to give up the trappings of comfort in order to savor the world in all its raw, vibrant, and oftentimes smelly, glory. Hey, we'll all see the same Eiffel Tower anyway, right? The downside to this zealous penny-pinching is your penchant for coming down with Delhi Belly as well as other bugs you can get while pounding back the local firewater.

Mostly C's

Romantic vacationer

As a hopelessly starry-eyed wanderer, yo[illegible] get your rocks off in a grove of ancient olive tree[illegible] under 16th-century stone doorways, and during the occasional power failure medieval chic! Leaving the rat race behind, each journey you take is dreamy and satisfying, lik[illegible] one deliberately slow mechanical bull. Your inner Rachel Ashwell goes into drive as you pick up random keepsa[illegible] pebbles, bottlecaps, and cracked He[illegible] ashtrays from your b&b. Don't be too [illegible]ppy though. It's sometimes great t[illegible] the world without the mist.

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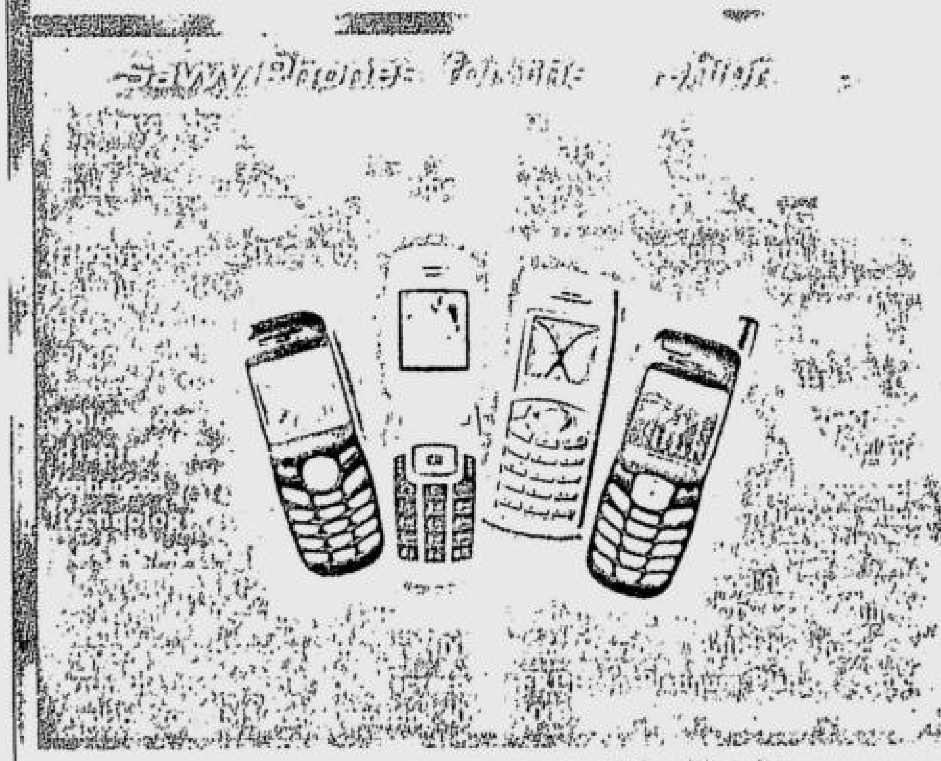
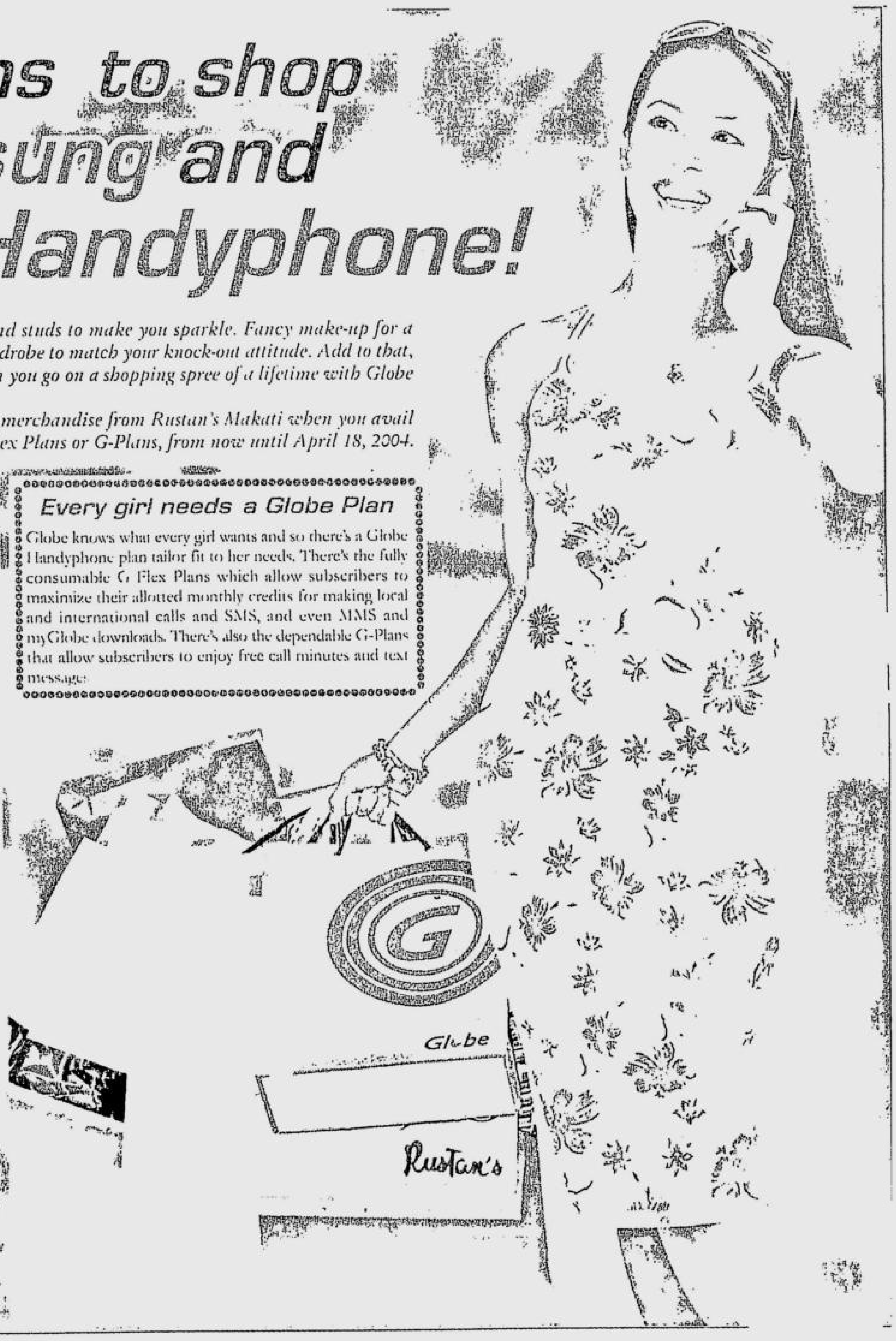
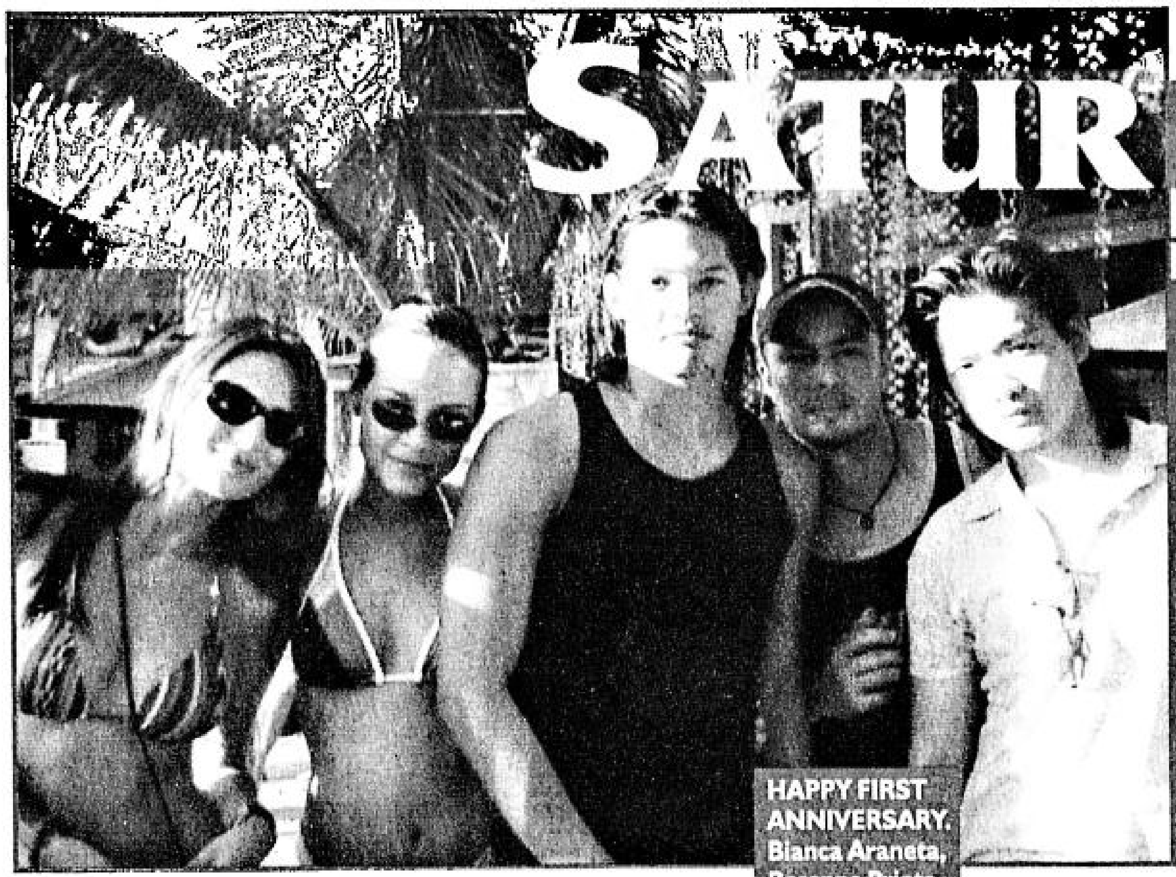
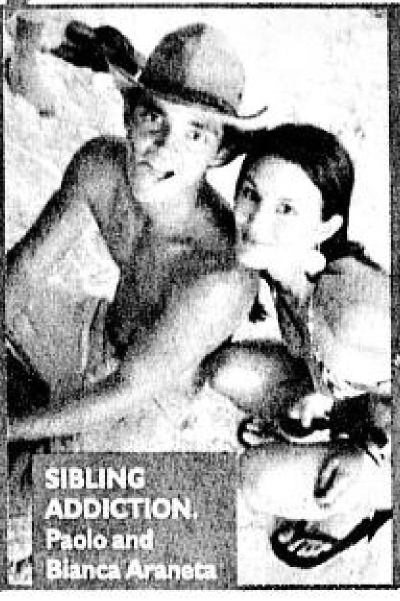






HAPPY FIRST ANNIVERSARY. Bianca Araneta, Rosanne Prieto, Borgy Manotoc, Derek Ramsey and me!

GLITTERBALL. Vivien Tan and Trondz Cheng



SIBLING ADDICTION. Paolo and Bianca Araneta

ADVERSE. Jon Herrera aka Johnny Verse

The new Addicts

Text and photos by Tim Yap

Sun bathers, chill meisters and hard-core party shakers gather in Boracay for one hot week

THE WORD A-D-D-I-C-T took on a new meaning in sunny Boracay recently.

I spent Holy Week talking to young people of all shapes and sizes—along with my fellow Addict (phone service) endorsers—the new batch: Super! columnist Borgy Manotoc, Bianca Araneta, Vivien Tan, Rosanne Prieto and Derek Ramsey. Every day, in the sweltering heat, we would traipse around engaging most everyone in conversation, sharing a kinship with the sun and sand, planning the night's escapades, or just bonding as friends do.

I felt like I was on the campaign trail with Borgy, as we hopped around and introduced ourselves to random strangers—who surprisingly were very cordial and welcoming. (Also, Borgy went about shirtless, which I guess was a plus for many.) Bianca, who was in a rainbow printed two-piece bikini, was a definite feast for the eyes as she juggled her myriad roles—maitre'd for boyfriend Juan Elizalde's resto Aria, Studio 23 VJ, new Addict endorser. Where did she get her energy? It's all natural high for her, she said. "I've never touched any form of drugs in my life." I believe her 100 percent.

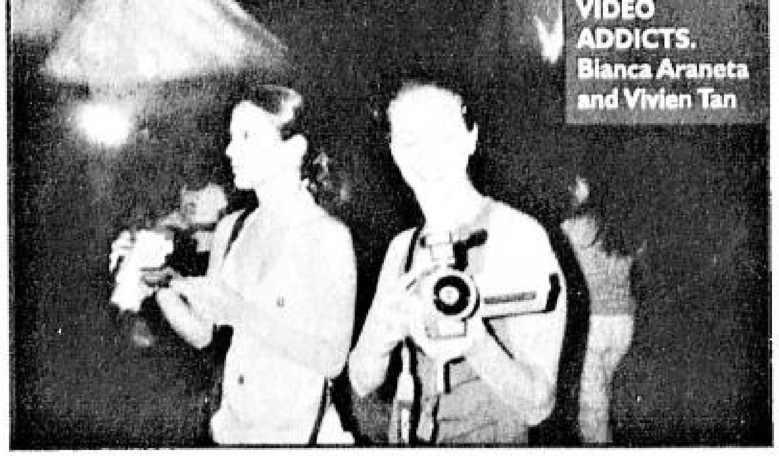
Vivien Tan (now Mrs. Dudo Vaca), became our impromptu videographer, taking footage of us fooling around and whatever else catches her eye—from the roaming pooches to the beach tots building giant sand castles before sunset. We also had coordinated glitter tattoos done by newfound friend Trondz Cheng at Boat Station 1.

THE NEW J2

VITAMIN C. Cindy Kurleto

ADDICTS ANONYMOUS. Vivien Tan, Rosanne Prieto, Tim Yap, Anna Angara and Louie Ang

LIKE A MOTH to a flame. Borgy Manotoc in Boracay



VIDEO ADDICTS. Bianca Araneta and Vivien Tan

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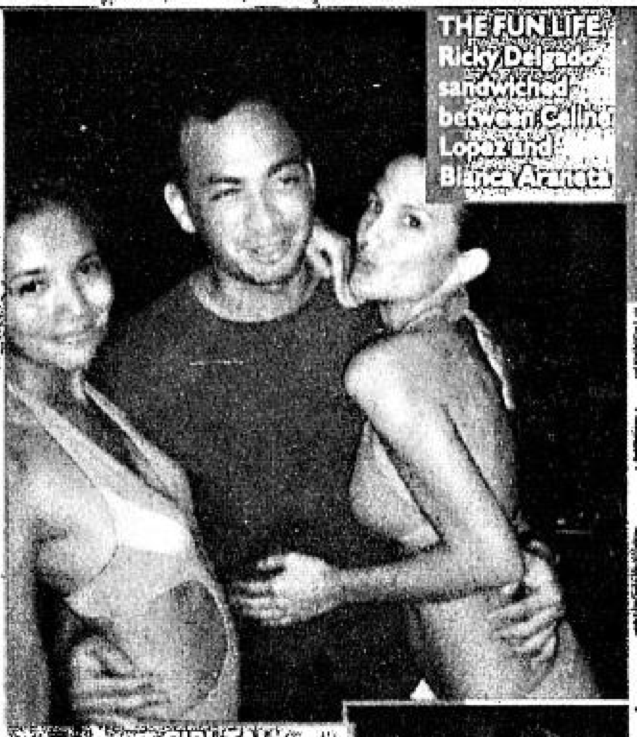
BIGGEST FISH. The guy behind it all, Tuck Cheah, aka DJ TC



THE FUN LIFE. Ricky Delgado sandwiched between Celine Lopez and Blanca Araneta

BLOW YOUR candles, Borgy!

BOYS IN THE HOOD. Paolo Araneta, Tim Yap and Brent Javier

The new Addicts

From page J1

Radiant and charming Rosanne Prieto was also an interesting revelation. I had worked with her in fashion shoots before, but it was only this summer that I got to know her much better. For someone fully entrenched in Manila's chi chi society (her Tatler cover caused a tidal wave), this elusive babe is refreshingly non-judgmental. "Live and let live—everybody happy," she once said to me over dinner.

Chick magnet Derek Ramsey, aside from shooting and appearing in Addict ads, plays serious basketball with Toyota. This means rigorous daily training—and we thought it was all fun. Of course, there are perks—and I'm sure Derek enjoys it to the hilt. "But it's also real tough," he said.

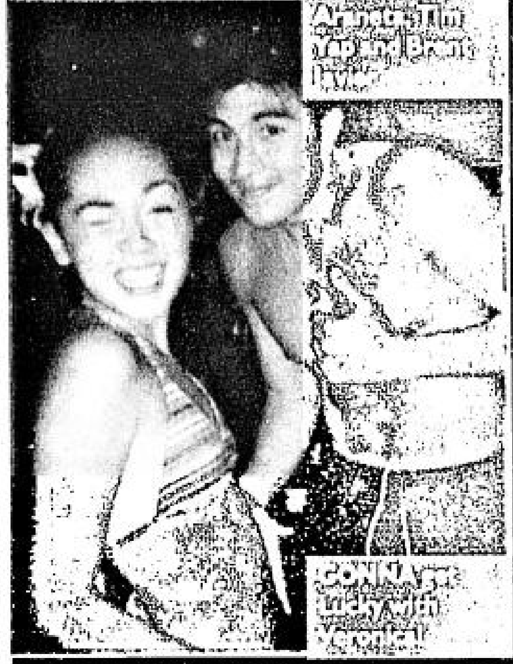
As for me, I like watching how young people evolve—I've always stood by our generation, taking a close look where we're headed. This time around it was through an R & B party (where Jon Herrera and Steve Mills stole all the thunder from the island) and something as seductive as Slinky (that had the whole shore party up till the next day with DJs Ken Ishii, Lenny Ibizarre and our very own Tuck Cheah, aka DJ TC).

Just ask our party mates Anna Angara and Louie Ang, and all the other Bora-philes that filled up the beachfront for Addict Mobile's first anniversary—sun bathers, chill meisters, hard-core party shakers—it was worth a full year's indulgence.

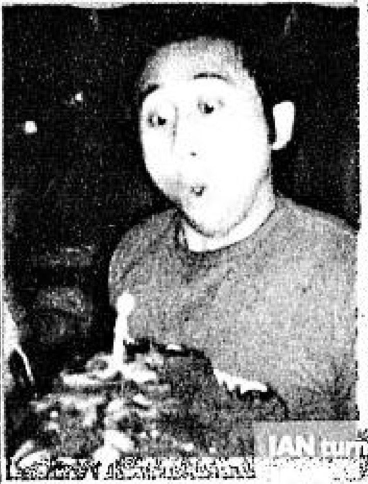
Here's to love and life, and living it to the hilt!

GIRL TALK. Trina and Alyanna at Waling Waling

ARIA BONDING. Ram and Pops Fernandez with Albert Martinez

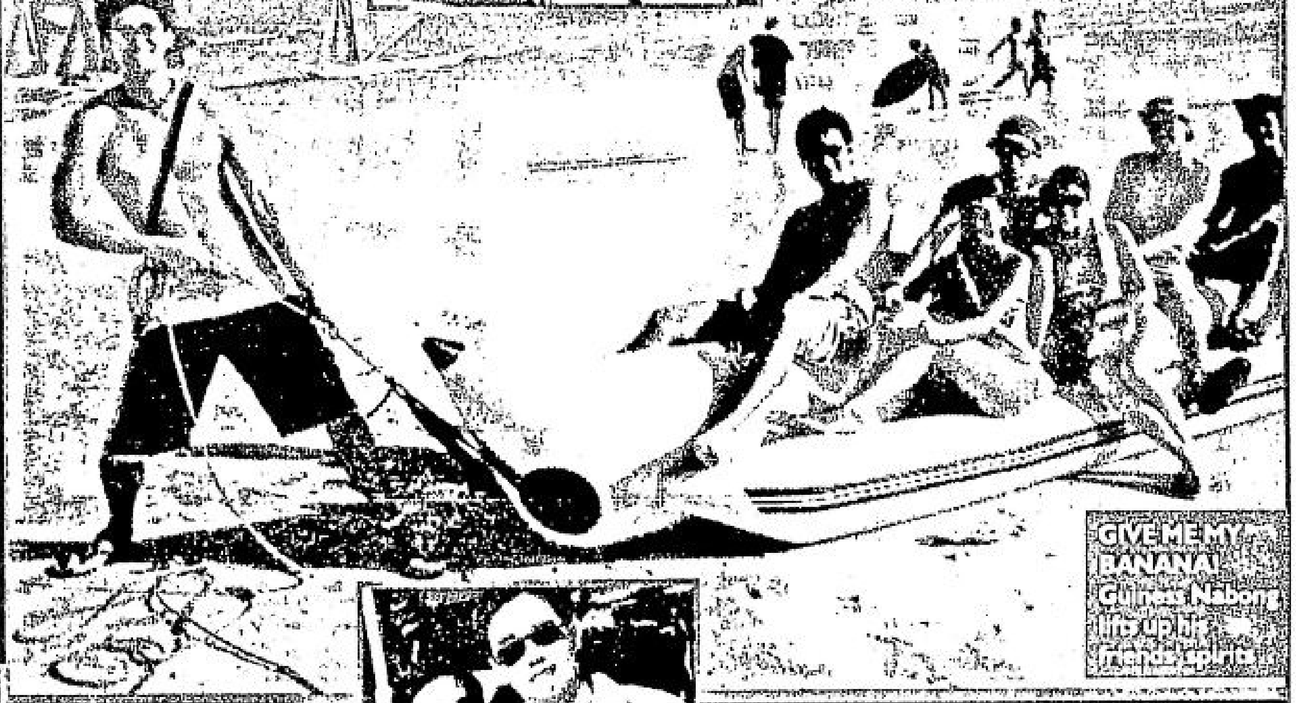


GONNA get Lucky with Veronica



IAN turns one!

BORACAY IT boy Datu Yap



GIVE ME MY BANANA. Guiness Nabong lifts up his friends' spirits

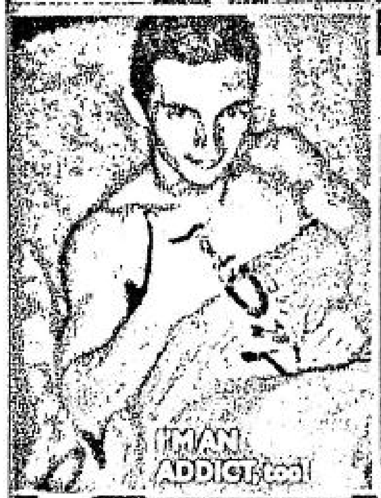
ELAN ATTITUDE. Cecile Laigo and Michelle Quizon

FOOTPRINTS in the Addict sand

BOYS FROM OZ. Brad Turvey and Matt

ELECTRIC DREAMS. Celine Lopez and Manny Del Rosario

NEXT IN LINE. Alfonso [illegible] Martinez, Trina and Anika Martinez and Alessandra Martinez



I'M AN ADDICT, too!

HAPPY birthday JM!

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HOT IN HERE. Eric Wilson and Koby Parcel

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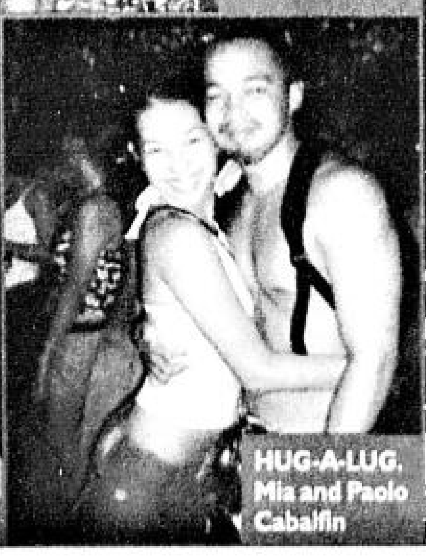

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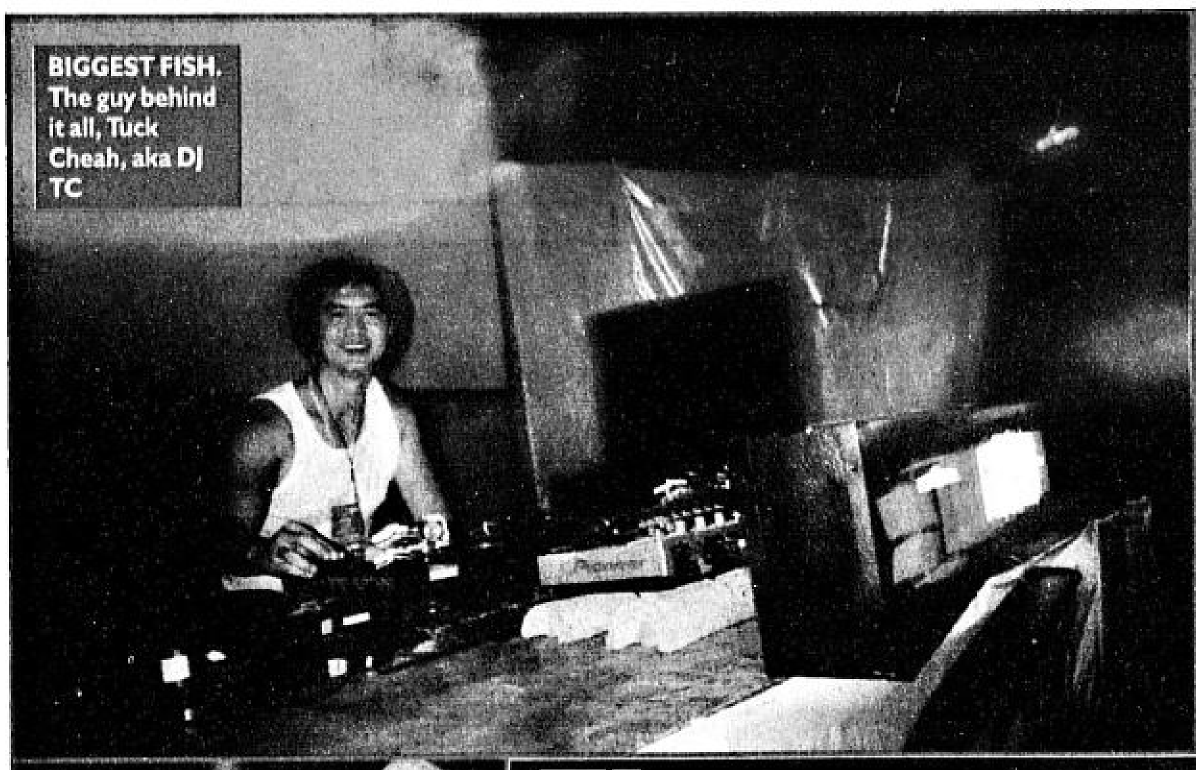
SMART DUO Tisha Silang and Louie Ang

AB FAB. Paolo and Blanca at it again

TARZAN AND JANE. Mon Jose and Marina Jimenez

DANCE MUSIC ZONE. Mark Reyes and Aliona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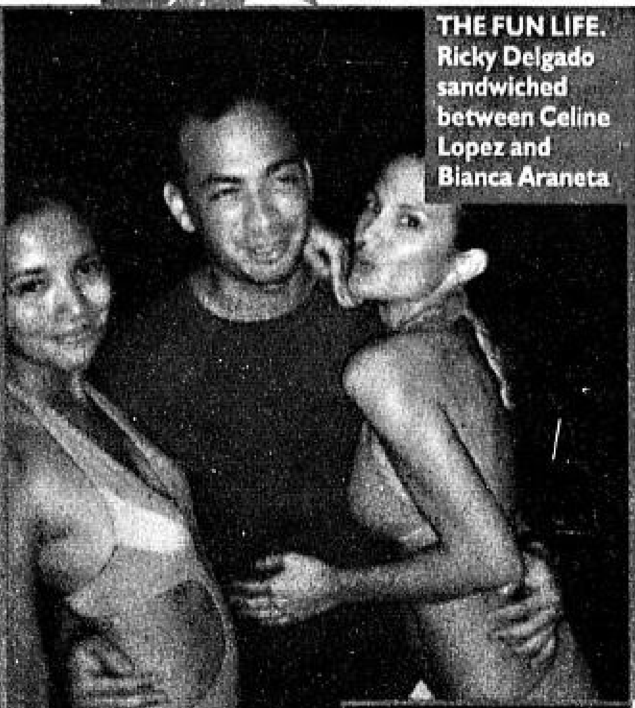
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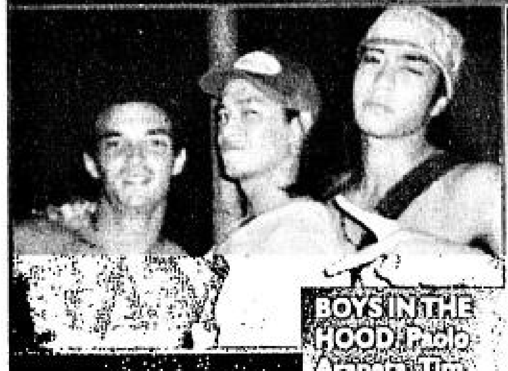
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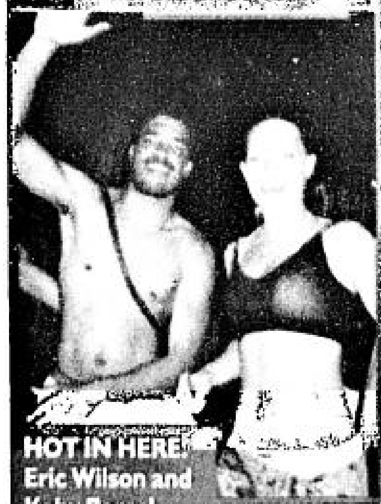
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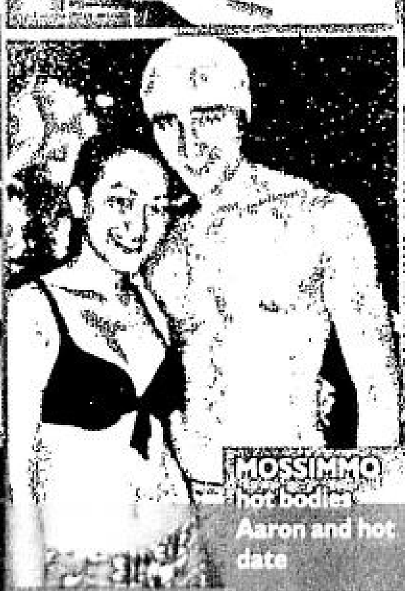
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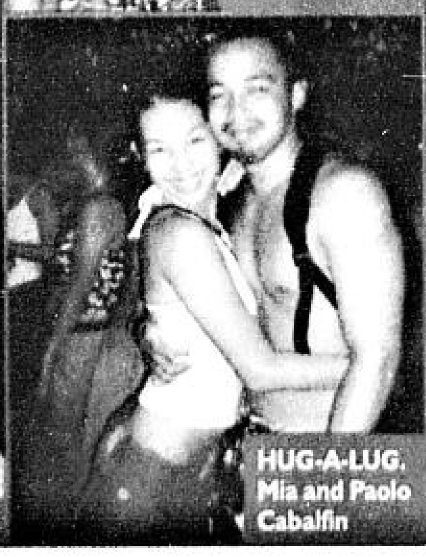
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WAVING the rainbow flag

Blissful in Bora

... where Easter weekend is a wallop of parties that would put Ibiza to shame

Text by Jay Santos
Photos by Great Ancheta and Niccolo Cosme

BAYWATCH in Bora

I SAW the sun in Boracay only twice a day during Easter break—sunset, when the parties would fire up; and sunrise, when they screeched to a halt. But that's what Bora is all about during Easter weekend—sleep, sand, surf, *schmoozing*. I've been going to Bora for three Lenten seasons now, and let me tell you there's very little about this island that is holy during Holy Week. Okay, there's a little beachside procession on Good Friday, but everything else is a wallop of riotous parties that would put the Ibiza to shame.

I'm still hugely hung over. I started the week of self-indulgence with a chartered plane ride to Caticlan with eight buddies. The pilot must've been completely off his rocker because he actually let me sit in the cockpit and steer the plane, which made everyone on board lose his/her breakfast. I made the plane turn a tad too much to the left, I guess. We arrived in Bora a little past nine in the morning. Social director Louie Cruz welcomed us during brunch at Pearl of the Pacific. Tito Louie, ever so generous, allowed my "fagnet" friend Mabs and I to stay in his exquisite flat above McSandro's, his equally superb restaurant. Soon I was ready to hit the beach. Armed with only my teeny weeny trunks, sunglasses, and a sarong tied around my waist, I shimmied down to "Hey Jude" to show and slap some skin with fellow pilgrims.

Guzzling Jagermeister

This tiny little island gathered enough beautiful faces and party animals so that every night, there were at least two or three parties to choose from. The big tele-companies were engaged in the usual battle of branding to see who could leave the most number of streamers and flyers and other eyesores. No one complained because these companies were the party hosts. The "Enchanted" party came first with Bed's resident DJ Cocoy Puyat manning the decks all night at Summerplace backed up by Bo Razon. The boys and girls of Bed took over the stage and guzzled Jagermeister straight down. Needless to say, everyone raided their pillboxes the following day for aspirin. The next night, Kat Tan invited everyone to Paradiso, which used to be Bazzura Bar, for a night of live tribal drums by Tribalizmo and jungle style house music by their resident DJs. Superstar flagger Frank Mamaril came prepared with his trippy flags while I, sidekick amateur flagger, came to his rescue whenever his arms got tired. Those who wanted to get their groove on went to Cocomangas and Pier One. The two bars battled to see who had the *phatest*, maddest R&B jams. Personally I think they both lost. R&B sucks.

Once in a while I would join the Ateneo volleyball group in the afternoons led by Great Ancheta, a fellow bedhead. This group proceeded afterwards to Zorba's to get drunk. But seriously trippin' and yippin' over some ball ain't my thing. After one game, I grabbed my cellphone and called Lucinda to my rescue. She wasn't some private nurse I lug around the island. She's my favorite *masahista* who immediately gave me a rubdown, which is how I believe one should watch volleyball games: oiled down, lying down. Every now and then, someone would wake me up and ask to join some dull boat ride or explore a cave or some shit like that. This is where my phone's "silent" feature come really handy. In Bora during Holy Week, I can ignore the extra uppity and reserve my energy for the more important matters, such as parties!

The most important of all these parties is of course Slinky, which happens every Black Saturday executed by über party promoters Domini Primero and TC of Big Fish. This year was the third anniversary of the British mega club's visit to Bora with matching Sunset Sessions every afternoon at Waling-Waling Thursday to Saturday as a run up to the big event. Bouncing, mind-numbed, tweaked out, high-strung freaks of all shapes, sizes, genders, and colors came together as though to venerate the gods of techno and trance—Ken Ishii (Japan) and Lenny Ibizarre (Ibiza). Melvin Punzalan and his band of ledge dancers kept the crowd jumpin'. Of all three Slinky parties I had been to, this one definitely walked away with the crown. I had never fallen on my knees from sheer exhaustion before, and still I begged for more.

Slowing down

Things slowed down after Slinky. And having slept for two years in my room where the temperature is consistently set to a frosty 10 degrees, I found myself sharing a trike ride from Hey Jude with Borgy Manotoc and Tim Yap the following night to go to this R&B party at Cocomangas. I was drunkity drunk drunk, yet I partied like they do in *da* ghetto til sunrise.

On my final day I decided to revisit the Mandala Spa, which I first visited with JR Isaac. This time I tried the Mandi Lulur treatment, and I'm telling you, boys and girls, after three hours, you'll feel like an overcooked piece of vegetable. Sounds gross, but it feels great! While I was there I ran into Freida Dario, Mandala's marketing director. I was amazed at her total lifestyle turnaround from Manila party party girl to Bora vegetarian zen darling. I also met one of the people who run Mandala, Dieter Schrottman. A geomancer and a yoga practicioner, Dieter carefully placed wooden sticks that jut out of the ground where he said energy from the soil flows so you'll know where to position yourself and meditate. Cool. I also bumped into DJ Montano, who was checked into one of Mandala's new suites with Celine Lopez. The new rooms designed by Bacchus Zulueta are faaaaab!

To everyone who partied with me in Bora, hope you're no longer hung over. It's back to work, baby. And to everyone else, see you all in Bora next year! Cheers!

In defense of offense

From page J4

light, I think he's implying that we should all just relax a bit and focus on the positive. And, citizens of the Philippines, we have so much to be positive about. We just have to find them.

While backpacking through Spain, I came across a chocolate bar comically named Filipinos. A fellow informed me that this was due to the fact that it was brown on the outside and white on the inside, supposedly alluding to our Asian ethnicity and Western heritage. I took a bite, pondering the implications of this culinary conundrum. A little fattening, maybe, but not the least bit offensive. That was one damn good Filipino.

E-mail the author at lasengnomad@yahoo.com

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Every once in a long while, a new supplement hits the shelves which has the power to revolutionize the industry. It happened with creatine and whey protein in the sports supplement world. It happened with glucosamine and ginkgo biloba in mainstream America.

This revolution occurs when science intersects with nature; when a supplement, through stringent clinical trials, is proven to work. And, most importantly, when this same supplement fills a real consumer need. Pure marketing can only produce fleeting trends.

Introducing **ThermoGreen Tea Caps** from Universal Nutrition, the first clinically-proven, ephedra-free thermogenic fat burner in the world. For starters, ThermoGreen Tea's efficacy is backed by a new study recently published in the prestigious *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. Next, ThermoGreen Tea also bridges a gap that conventional diet supplements can't. Most conventional weight loss supplements contain some variation of the ECA stack (ephedrine, caffeine, aspirin). The reason for this stack's popularity is straightforward: countless studies have proven the effectiveness of this formula.

Though effective, the conventional ECA stack has notable side effects, thanks in large to the inclusion of mahuang, a potent source of the alkaloids ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. When combined with caffeine sources such as guarana or kola nut, the ECA stack can have potentially harmful consequences in some individuals, particularly those who are pregnant and those taking other prescription drugs such as MAO inhibitors or other over-the-counter (OTC) drugs.

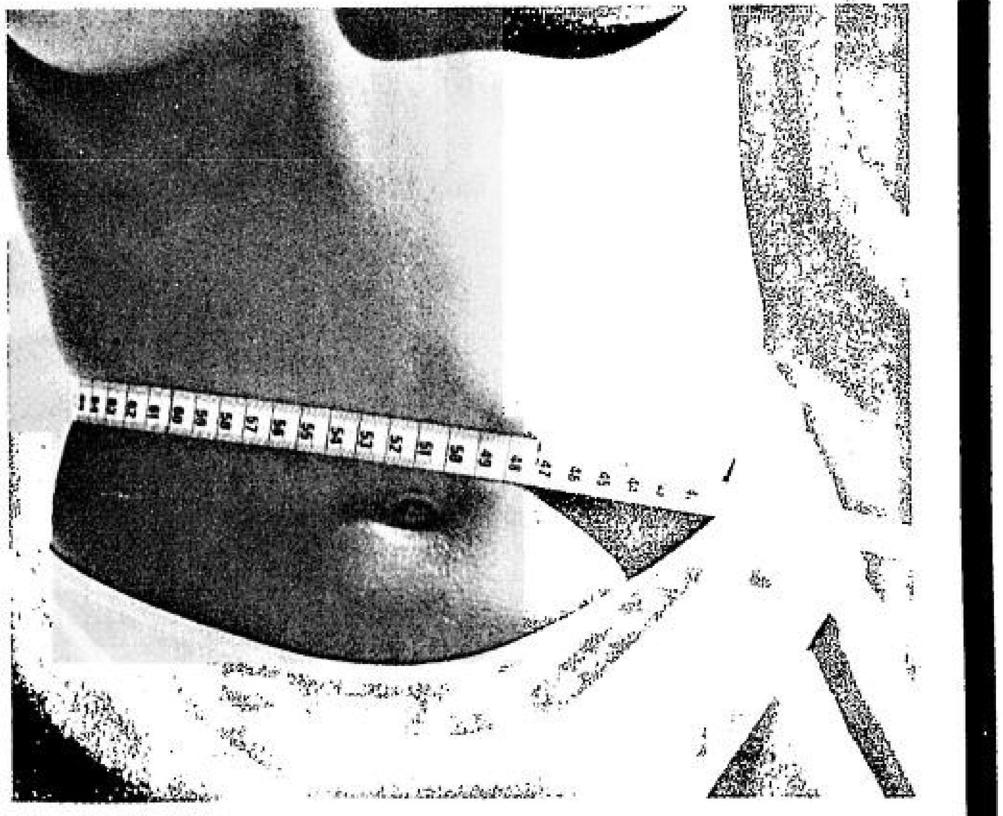
Consequently, there is a tremendous need for an effective thermogenic fat burner which can benefit those individuals with sensitive systems. This product must be gentle and effective at the same time. ThermoGreen Tea Caps satisfies these requirements perfectly. According to the researchers, "stimulation of thermogenesis and fat oxidation by [ThermoGreen Tea] was not accompanied by an increase in heart rate."

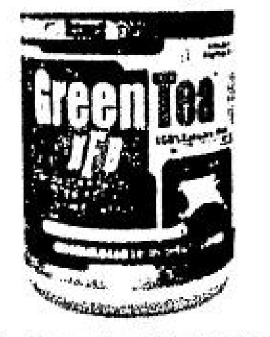
The secret to ThermoGreen Tea's success lies in its exclusive extract. This extract contains a precise ratio of specific green tea polyphenols, including 90mg of the active ingredient epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG). Plus, each serving of ThermoGreen Tea provides 50mg of naturally-occurring caffeine (green tea contains far less caffeine than its oxidized cousin, black tea). This proprietary extract has been proven to increase thermogenesis by up to 43%. The most amazing thing is that the test subjects increased thermogenesis and fat oxidation without exercise of any kind! Yet research has found that the formula found exclusively in ThermoGreen Tea will not increase heart rate. These two facts make ThermoGreen Tea a true breakthrough in fat burning supplements.

But ThermoGreen Tea Caps is more than just an effective but gentle fat burner. This unique, proprietary formula, being extracted from green tea, is also one of nature's most powerful antioxidants-more powerful than both **vitamins C** and **E**. Science has shown again and again that green tea has many benefits. Never before has there been such a supplement that provides so many nutritional benefits.

For instance, numerous studies have shown that green tea can exert anticancer, antiviral, antibacterial, antifungal and antimutagenic activities. Population studies performed in Asia strongly link green tea consumption with significantly lower incidences of gastrointestinal, lung, breast and gallbladder cancers. Furthermore, green tea, in vitro studies, has blocked the growth of breast cancer cell lines. Furthermore, in vivo studies indicate that green tea can enhance the activity of key enzymes implicated in the synthesis of glutathione, the body's most powerful natural antioxidant.

Without a doubt, ThermoGreen Tea will herald the coming of a new class of ephedra-free thermogenic fat burners. Within the next year, ThermoGreen Tea will become a mainstay in the diet sections of supplement and health food stores across the country.





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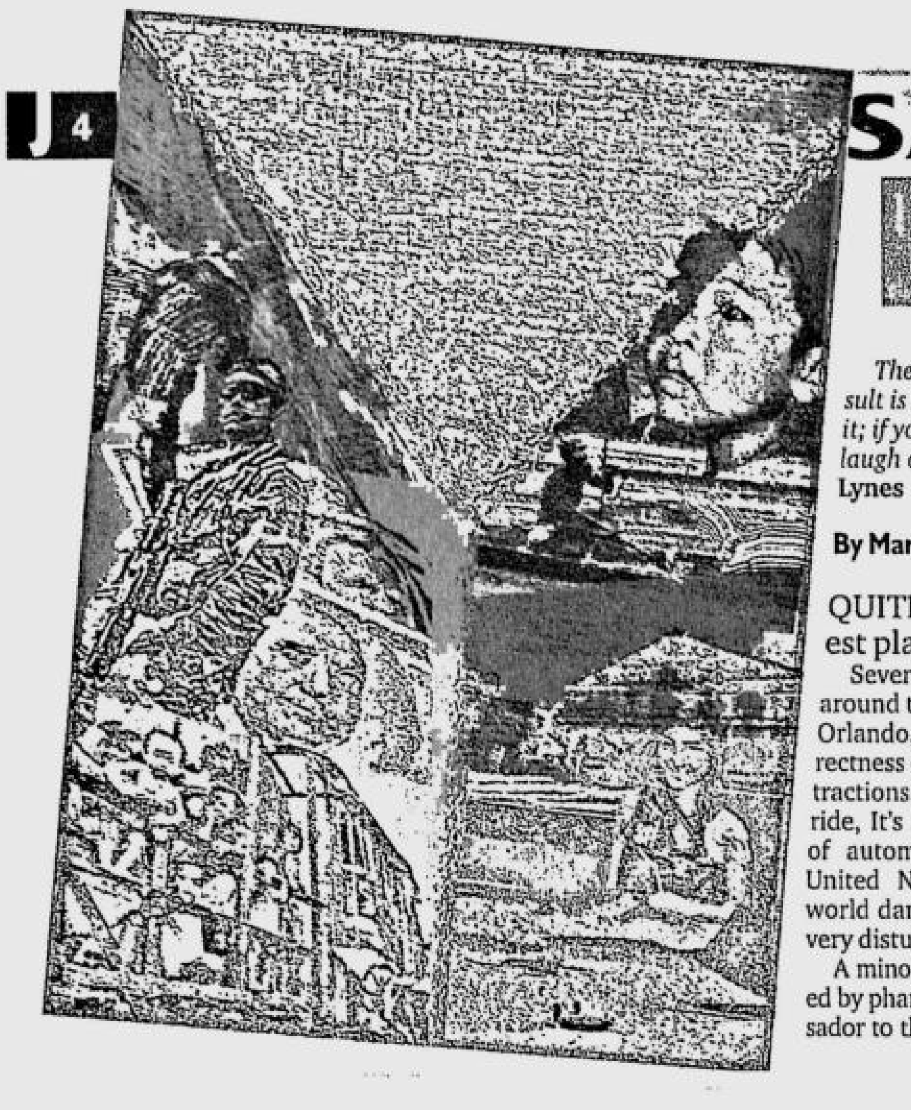

In defense of offense

The only gracious way to accept an insult is to ignore it; if you can't ignore it, top it; if you can't top it, laugh at it; if you can't laugh at it, it's probably deserved. – **Russel Lynes**

By Martin Valdes

QUITE a few people in the happiest place on earth were pissed off.

Several years ago, a rumor circulated around the grounds of Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, regarding the political correctness of one of the theme park's oldest attractions. The massively popular children's ride, It's a Small World—wherein hundreds of automated puppets representing every United Nations-recognized country in the world dance and sing—purportedly hosted a very disturbing Filipino puppet.

A minor scandal ensued when it was reported by phantom sources that the Filipino ambassador to this papier-mâché congregation sported a tail peeking out of his *barong* Tagalog. Hundreds of letters from enraged Filipinos flooded the park's service department, demanding that the racially repugnant feature be rectified and an official apology signed by Michael Eisner or Mickey Mouse, whoever was more important, be issued.

Of course, there was no such anomaly. The Filipino puppet had merely been misplaced geographically, and was thus waving and smiling in the Polynesian section of the ride. A spokesperson apologized for the logistical confusion and explained that the lack of space in the Asian section (eerily accurate) was to blame. It *is* a small world after all.

Sticks and stones...

The concept of offense is as ancient and primal as natural selection itself. While lesser organisms evolved through violent retaliation to intrusion (into territory or food supply), human beings, on account of larger brain mass, learned to take offense personally, thus birthing the concept of insult. Early man also learned creative new ways to strike back, such as physically (the old cudgel-to-the-noggin method), verbally ("You're mother was an Australopithecus"), existentially (religion), and fatalistically (marriage). History attests to the significance of the insult as it has fueled everything from technology, medicine, exploration, to media, warfare, religion and competitive sport. Modern politics is based on the ability to respond to challenges of a critical nature. "Mudslinging" is not a reference to scantily clad female wrestlers knee-deep in goo.

But it is the reaction to what is deemed offensive that is truly important. The Filipino people, in particular, display an admirable amount of energy and passion when confronted by the offensive. A decade ago, word got around that a respected international dictionary had defined "Filipina" as domestic help. The uproar was such that a boycott of the book as well as a Presidential inquiry soon followed. This illustrates the Filipinos' tendency to champ at the bit when our reins are jerked. We often do without proper verification. Recently, a letter wrongly attributed to an American radio personality named Art Bell made the Internet rounds. The letter was a spectacularly horrific trashing of the Filipino people and Mr. Bell was soon inundated by an avalanche of hate mail and death threats. Everyone now knows that this was a hoax, but the damage has been done.

There is a lesson to be learned here. It is human nature to react defensively when there is a perception of being attacked. Self-preservation demands it. But perhaps this defense mechanism tends to bypass the middleman of rationality and goes straight to the middle finger of spontaneous reaction. Unnecessary skirmishes erupt on a daily basis across the nation due to miscommunication and misunderstanding. How many high school girls—cosmetics and cattiness obscuring all reason—have ended friendships based on unsubstantiated rumors? How many heterosexual males—testosterone and alcohol clouding their judgment—have ended up in hospitals for the most inane of reasons? But, dude, "your car is the shit" *is* a compliment!

...can break my bones...

We categorize insults into two distinct forms: attacks on the individual, and attacks targeted at the identity, such as our culture, morals, or way of life. What exactly are we offended by? How can we address it? Introspection is always difficult, but if we can put Andrew E.'s "Pink Palaka" on television, I'm sure we can stomach the process of self-examination.

When the Hollywood film "Brokedown Palace" was filmed here, lead actress Claire Danes, in an interview with Premiere magazine, referred to Manila as a "ghastly city," smelling of cockroaches and teeming with rats and paraplegics. Her comments were insensitive, fueled by ignorance and naiveté, but the reaction was likewise ill-advised. A ban on her films was implemented and the young actress was considered persona non grata. Instead of focusing on her comments constructively, the government chose to reject the allegations as outright lies. This is not patriotism; this is denial. While Danes obviously had not an inkling of the true charm possessed by the city, it was her honest opinion, and her observations had merely stemmed her personal experience. Was that her fault? Her job was to act in the movie, not to promote the Philippines. That's our job.

Napoleon Brandy has been in hot water ever since its ad series that asked, "Have you tried a 15-year-old?" came out. Extremely poor taste (the ad, not the brandy) aside, reaction to the controversy illustrates the point of this article. The women's group Gabriela took an expectedly militant stance and embarked on a crusade to have the ads. But Alfredo Lim, a senatorial aspirant, took matters a step further by physically modifying the Napoleon Brandy billboard on Roxas Boulevard: he cut away the word *kinse* (15), leaving a humorously perverse question left for the masses to ponder. Personally, I do think the controversial ad should be taken down. Within legal means. Destruction of property isn't, and a government man should know better, or else the Constitution is just a collection of suggestions.

The unfortunate truth of the matter is, there is so much to be offended by. Everyday we are insulted, not by foreign correspondents, but by our own lifestyles. We are insulted by fellow citizens who cannot obey basic traffic laws. We are insulted by politicians who assume the masses are not intelligent enough to discern motives. We are insulted by our complacency regarding these matters. Who cares what Oxford and Art Bell and Claire Danes say about our country? What have we been saying about ourselves?

...so don't throw any.

We should be able to identify what is truly important to us as a people, what is it that we are really trying to preserve, what we are willing to fight for, what is worth fighting for. We have to conserve our energy and emotion for these moments lest we expend them in frivolous affairs. If we are criticized with truth, we must have the courage to face up to it. If we are assailed beyond our control, we must have the fortitude to let it go. If we are offended by that which insults what is important to us, and in our heart we know that the attack was neither justified nor warranted, then we must respond with the ardor of patriotism, the intelligence of humanity, and the flexible certitude of a person who is willing to be proved wrong.

Crude men who feel themselves insulted tend to crank up the degree of insult as high as possible, and talk about the offense in greatly exaggerated language, so they can bask in the aroused feelings of hatred and revenge. Friedrich Nietzsche said that. Put in a positive

IN DEFENSE/ J3

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1. The Search for Game Show Contestants is open to all males and females, ages 18 to 25 years old. *2.*Applicants must possess a high degree of self-confidence and have distinct/interesting personalities. *3.*Applicants must be healthy, physically fit with perfect teeth. *4.*Interested parties must submit any 150 mL carton of Colgate Fresh Confidence and present the product, along with his/her bio-data, a photocopy of his/her birth certificate and a medium or full body photo at ABS-CBN to be able to audition. Auditions will be held on April 17 and 18, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at ABS-CBN Studio 1, Sgt. Esguerra corner Mother Ignacio St., Quezon City. *5.*Aspiring contestants should look for Maricor Ferrer of ABS-CBN.

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IBA TAYO. Tony Boy Cojuangco with Gretchen Barretto and daughter Dominique

High five!

Text and Photos by Tim Yap

LIFTING a page from Rupert Murdoch's battle plan of injecting edge to stage a 'Fox-y' power coup from leading networks, Tony Boy Cojuangco threw a beach party to launch his slick, new programming lineup for his newly acquired ABC 5.

Of course, his most valuable asset, aside from his new board of directors (from finance man Jose Pardo to media maverick Bobby Barreiro) was there beside him the whole night. I am referring to the diamonds in his life, Gretchen Barretto and daughter Dominique, who had a field day at the tropical extravaganza having identical glittery tattoos on their arms as they observed the revelry that reminded guests of Carnaval in Rio.

During all this excitement, psychedelic duo Ariel and Maverick graced the stage to introduce Tony Boy, who was apparently nursing a bad throat. But inspite that, he vocalized his network's battle plan—and that is to clobber the giants—no other way.

A video showed a regular Juan De La Cruz channel surfing through the mainstream fare of cookie cutter shows. A particular channel flashes the endearing term of "Kapamilya,"—to which he looks at the viewer, makes a face and says, "Kapamilya my ass!" Now, are those steel balls or what?

They then proceed to enumerate their shows—their stable of groundbreaking reality tv fare (from On Air hosted by JM Rodriquez to The Misadventures of Ariel and Maverick, et al) to their newest roster of stars.

Another interesting show that they launched that night was "Buhay Beauty Queen," where they go all over the country in search of the new Mutya ng Pilipinas—who will end up being one million pesos richer!

And of course, proving that you can' t have too much of a good thing, the station also plays host to (ahem, ahem) INQUIRER TV.

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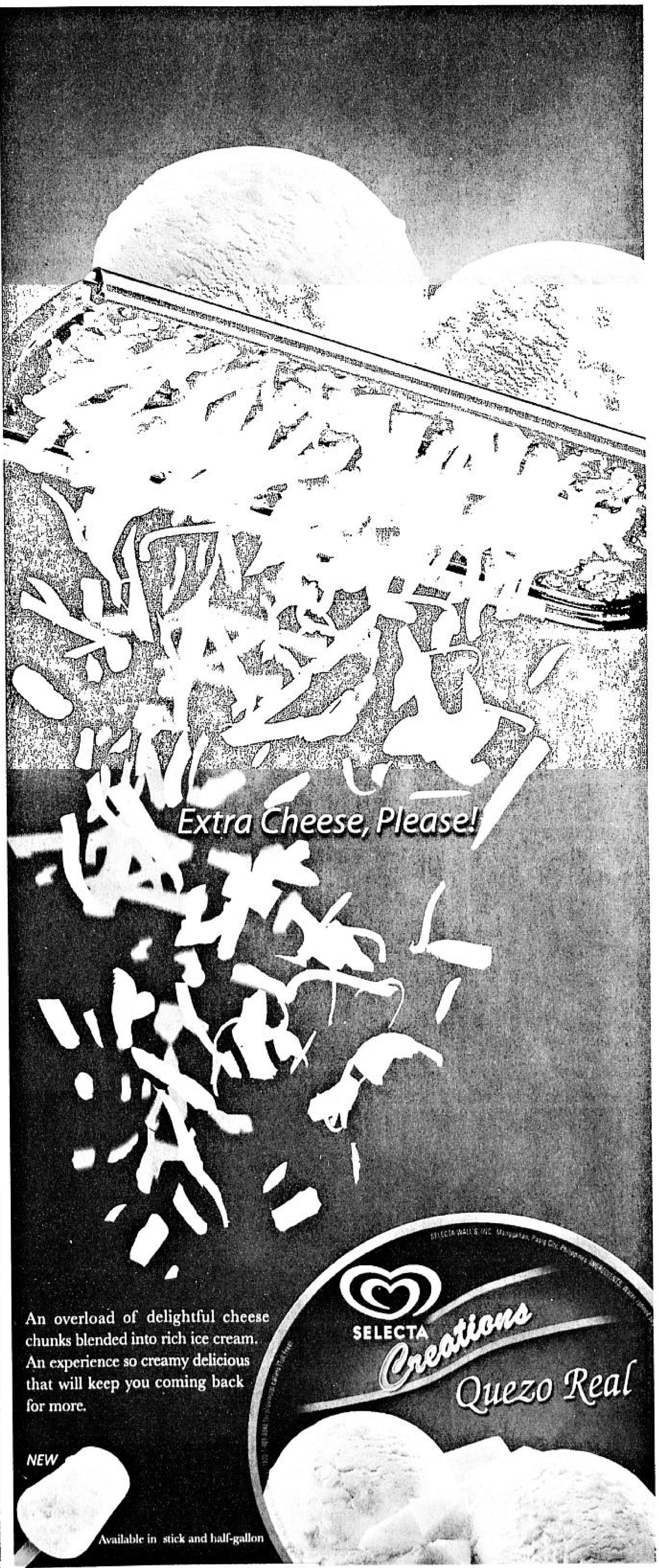

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HIGH/ K2

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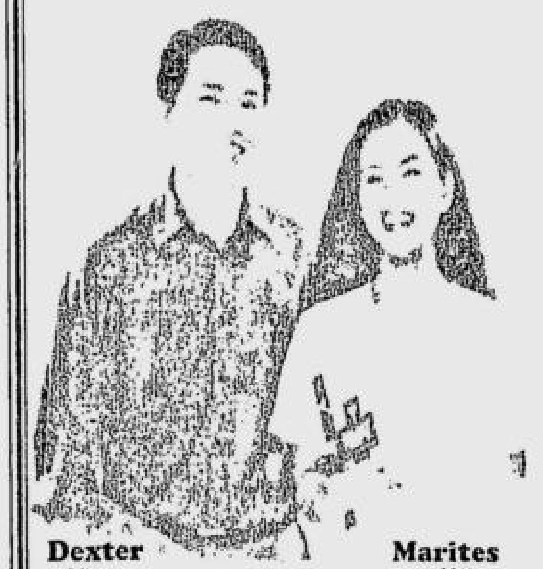

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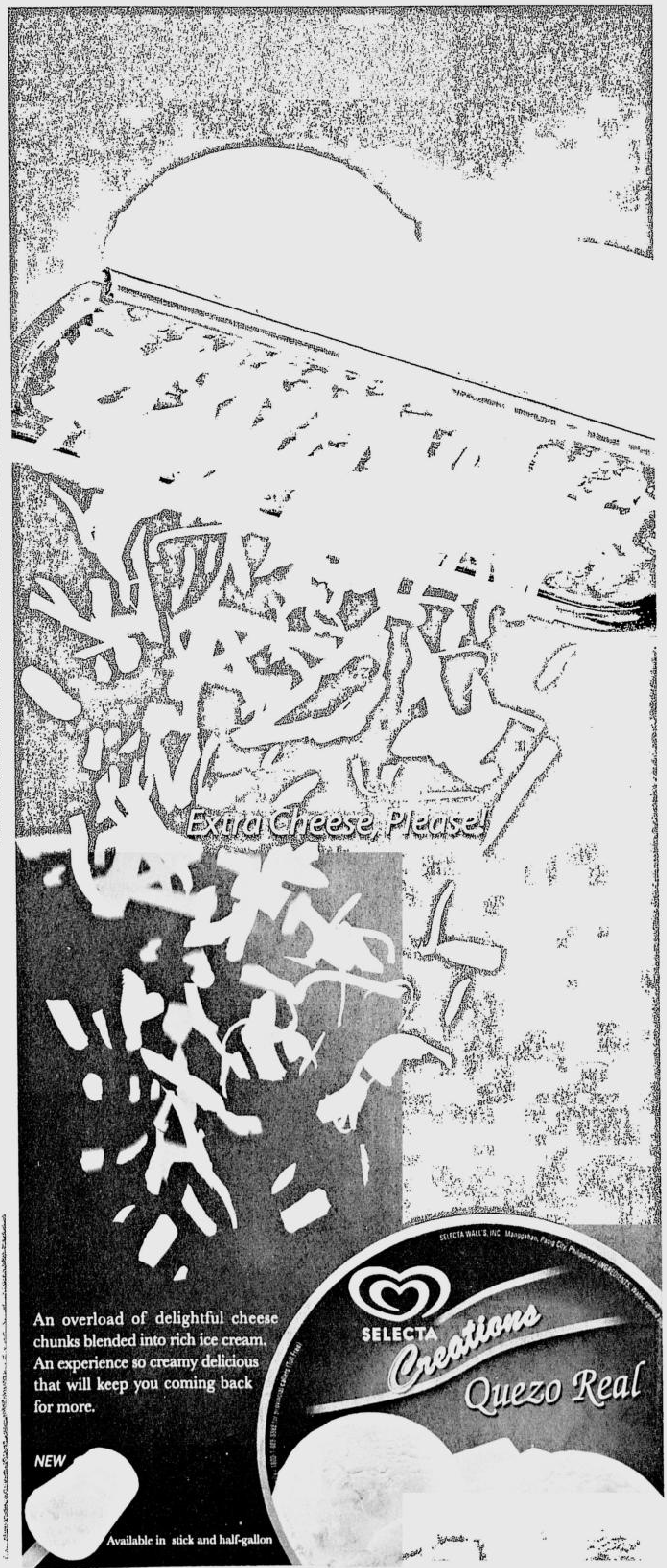

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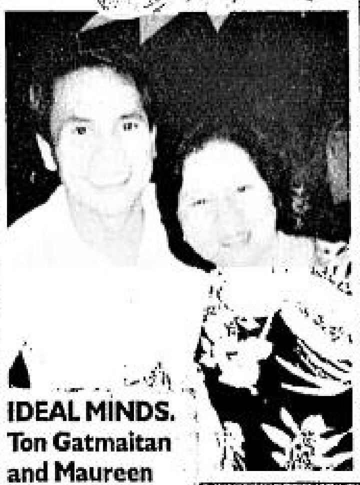
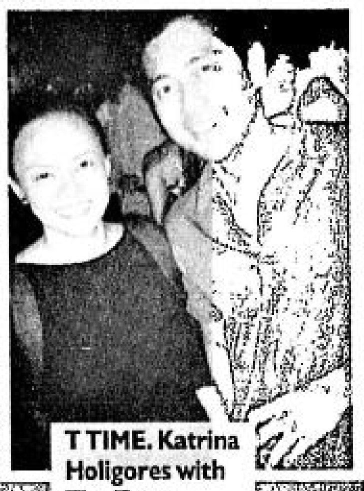


IDEAL MINDS. Ton Gatmaitan and Maureen Soong

BUHAY BEAUTY KING AND QUEEN. Hot, young director Lino Cayetano and a Mutya candidate



T TIME. Katrina Holigores with Tim Tayag

High five!

From page K1

They also unveiled their new campaign, "Iba Tayo"—which highlights the station's edgy take on Pinoy life. One tableau features three identical looking women, each one appearing as sweet as the other. Suddenly, the girl on center spot flashes her tongue, to reveal a silver stud. And the screen flashes "Iba Tayo!"

Post programme, the Retrospect band grooved onstage (with La Greta even coming up to join them) while the crowd roared in excitement with the arrival of a new tv station. The party went on till the wee hours as booze overflowed, a Toyota Vios was raffled off and the band played on.

Stars from rival stations showed up, too. Producers and other station bigwigs were spotted spying on the competition.

Is this the start of a three-way battle? We can only hope.

GRETA GARBO. Gretchen Barretto's effervescent glow

Is this the start of a three-way network battle? We can only hope

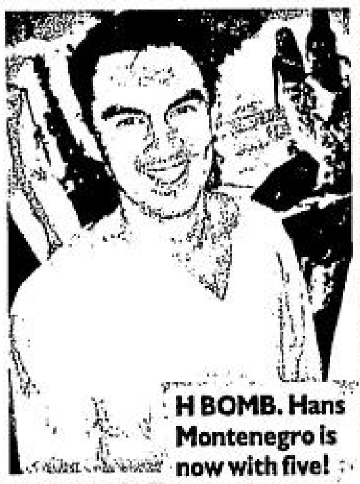
EXCITING times for Epy Quizon

D DAY. With daughter Dominique

A FILE. Ali Sotto with hubby Omar

MISADVENTURE DUO. Maverick and Ariel

PASTEL QUEEN. Evangeline Pascual



H BOMB. Hans Montenegro is now with five!

VA-VA-VOOM! Sandy Hontiveros with Vivian Recio

RATED Ricci Chan

HAWAIIAN FIVE-O! La Greta grooves with Gold of Retrospect

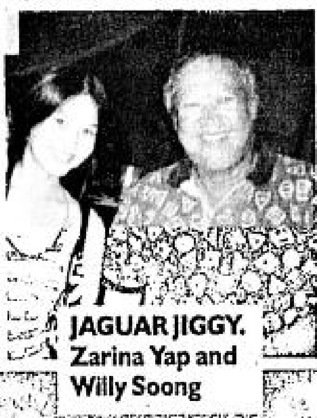
HOW SWEET IT IS. John Lapus is one of their new hosts

INQ TV. Dave Valdes, Hans Pessumal and Imee Alcantara

24K. Karla Estrada and Thelina Nuval

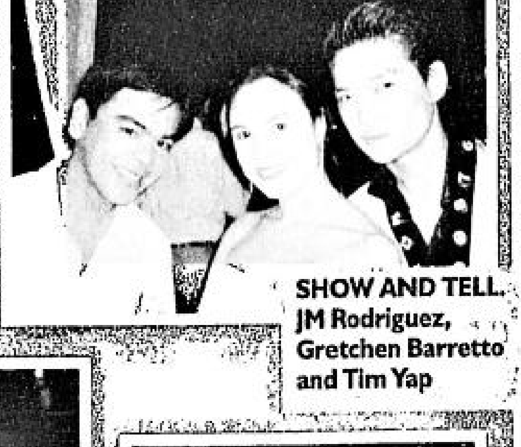
ANG TV! Ericka Fife and Ipe Cruz

ABC 5 TRIO. Elaine Basa, Malu Vergel De Dios and Nicole Vergara



JAGUAR JIGGY. Zarina Yap and Willy Soong

ART AND PARENTING. Teresa Asis with mom Ana Abiera and Jon Silva



SHOW AND TELL. JM Rodriguez, Gretchen Barretto and Tim Yap

NOT SINGLE. Zenda Cabangon and Chris Tan

LONG LOST BROTHERS? Dodo Reyes and Bobby Barreiro

ART ATHLETICA. Lulli Delgado and Monica Llamas

GORGEOUS DUO. Pixie Cheah and daughter

PARDO ME? Barbie and dad Jose Pardo

BIG FISH BRO. Judge and Domini Primero

Pleasure me

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

ONE of the greatest mysteries I have pondered for quite a while now—apart from the sudden and irrational badminton craze that swept the city—is the association of pleasure with guilt. I give props to the person who first wondered aloud why everything that feels or tastes good in this world is stamped as either sinful, harmful or fattening.

Depriving the self of simple pleasures is the name of the game, and for me a mild strain of masochism, at least according to the disciples of Dr. Atkins who've proclaimed rice as the enemy at the dinner table. Looking at my own current lifestyle choices, I'd be classified by forces unknown as one of those people headed straight for the Intensive Care Unit, the fat farm, or hell, whichever comes first. For one, my personal and lifelong diet which consists of such exquisite fare as barbecue-flavored potato chips, pork in all its glorious permutations, anything fried and topped with Knorr seasoning plus ice cold Coke to wash it down, are all junked together as toxic to my system and contributory to my waistline. Moving on to the dessert menu, this diet includes such blasphemous delights as chocolate, oft described as "sinful." Coffee, the world's most widely consumed psychoactive drug of choice (and preferred drink of navel gazers everywhere) is sometimes referred to as "the devil's cup."

Certainly, one cannot speak of pleasure and indulgence without thinking of the age-old ritual of partying—which also comes with a caveat. The party favors of alcohol, cigarettes and recreational drugs obviously come with giant warning signs in defense of our brain cells and internal organs. In terms of musical preferences, we've been advised many times in the past that rock and metal is the preferred genre in the listening stations of hell, again by anonymous individuals who have outdone Frodo and Sam by going *way* down there and back again to give a hot report. (Personally, I suspect it's Andrew E's obnoxious "Pink Palaka" that's playing on the airwaves in Gehenna.) Then of course, activities associated with various stages of dishabille spell out eternal damnation.

Consider then the alternatives for living out a healthy, moral and exemplary lifestyle, starting off with a diet of leafy vegetables, tofu, oatmeal and water. Heck, why not just choose all-out starvation or fasting, which is said to be good for the figure *and* the spirit? Sobriety makes for a fine liver, yet it is a bit of a predicament during beach parties and on New Year's Eve. Self-flagellation during the Lenten season is defended by some as a method of purification. How to suppress your raging libido? Hold hands. Who cares if you're unhappy when you've got a great body, healthy entrails and the promise of salvation?

OK, so if I don't plan to live like a rabbit or a wandering ascetic, what's a girl to do to live the supposed "good life"? "The good life" then is relative, depending on how one defines "good."

Pleasure school

I believe everyone is a natural-born hedonist, because in our earliest moments of chillaxing in the world, we have only our senses to judge what is good or bad. We recognize two things: pain and pleasure. Thus, whatever feels good is judged right, while anything causing pain is deemed wrong.

Such is the dogma of hedonism, which holds that feelings of pleasure or happiness are the highest aim of conduct. Our senses tip the scales on right and wrong, so actions increasing the pleasure quotient are encouraged.

It was Aristippus of Cyrene who first preached the tempting doctrine that pleasure is the universal and ultimate goal of life. He defined pleasure as not merely sensual gratification but also other, higher forms of enjoyment like mental indulgences, love and friendship. Then came along the Greek philosopher Epicurus who, about three centuries before Christ (and more than two thousand years before Mel Gibson) taught that we should aim to minimize pain and maximize pleasure. Epicurean hedonism got slammed on all fronts in the Middle Ages, largely by philosophers who believed it was inconsistent with the Christian tenets. But the pleasure school got high marks during the Renaissance Era from other philosophers such as Erasmus, who argued that pleasure was compatible with God's wish for humans to be happy. British philosopher Thomas More defended hedonism by stating that God designed us to be happy, and that it's our happiness that motivates us to behave morally.

Guilt Complex

So at what point do we start feeling guilty for indulging our senses? For me, it's when reason kicks in. We know that we can't always give in to certain pleasures because of the consequences it's bound to bring, be it a few more digits on the weighing scale, or a few less digits in the bank account. Self-restraint and enduring some form of suffering is sometimes necessary to achieve happiness. If sporting six-pack abs makes us happy, then the pain of skipping *sisig* and beer and investing a few more torturous hours in the gym is worth it. If living a long, healthy life is our goal, then the pain of nicotine withdrawals is necessary. If we're bent on buying our own place or island-hopping in the Caribbean in the future, then what's a few years of slaving away in a mind-numbing job?

What I *don't* get is the constipated mindset that there is some abstract form of goodness in living a pained life with no transcendence in sight. This is the backbone of the cult of suffering, which I sadly think many Filipinos thrive on. Some label it Catholic guilt, having it ingrained in the psyche that there is something good about torment. I think a lot of Filipinos forget that resurrection lies ahead of our personal calvaries. The end is not in suffering, which is merely the struggle to transcend pain.

I need only watch a few scenes in local television dramas that celebrate the anguished underdog or the miserable protagonist to make me wonder how anyone can be entertained by suffering in itself. Since the lines between reel and real life blur even more so in this country, I likewise question whether we have masochistic tendencies because we keep voting the same morons to public office.

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So do I consider myself a hedonist? Heck, yeah! But more of a modern kind—not as a pleasure seeker guided only by the basest of human senses, but rather by a sense of life perfection. If we are all architects of a good and happy life, then there is no room for the mantra of mediocrity, *"Pwede na ang pwede na ."*

I'd be lying if I said I didn't crave pleasure. For what life is worth living without a quest for higher enjoyment? Indeed there is pleasure in friendship, in wisdom, in peace and adventure. There is pleasure in seizing the exquisite moment, whether it be savoring good wine or savoring conversation with a good friend. There is pleasure in dancing wildly in a party without a care about the ticking clock or the stares of a well-heeled crowd too self-conscious to cut loose. There is pleasure in sitting on a shoreline to hear the sound of the crashing waves. There is pleasure in visiting a place for the first time, in seeing colors pool in a beautiful painting, in reading a line that echoes in recognition.

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Saves up to 60% on water and 40% on electricity cost with built-in heater that can heat up to 90° C for quicker stain removals.

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*THE ADMIRAL 3KW SHOWER WATER HEATER

only P4,500.00

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only P30,678.00 AAV1200
only P28,665.00 LNC6764 7.0 cu. ft. drum LPG powered dryer
only P27,012.00 AYE1200 7.0 cu. ft. drum electric heated dryer
only P15,995.00 BCD193W 2-door 6.8 cu. ft. No Frost
only P495.00 BH-9703 BH-9701 remote controlled doorchimes
only P17,995.00 XT29A9 29" super flat color TV (digital format)

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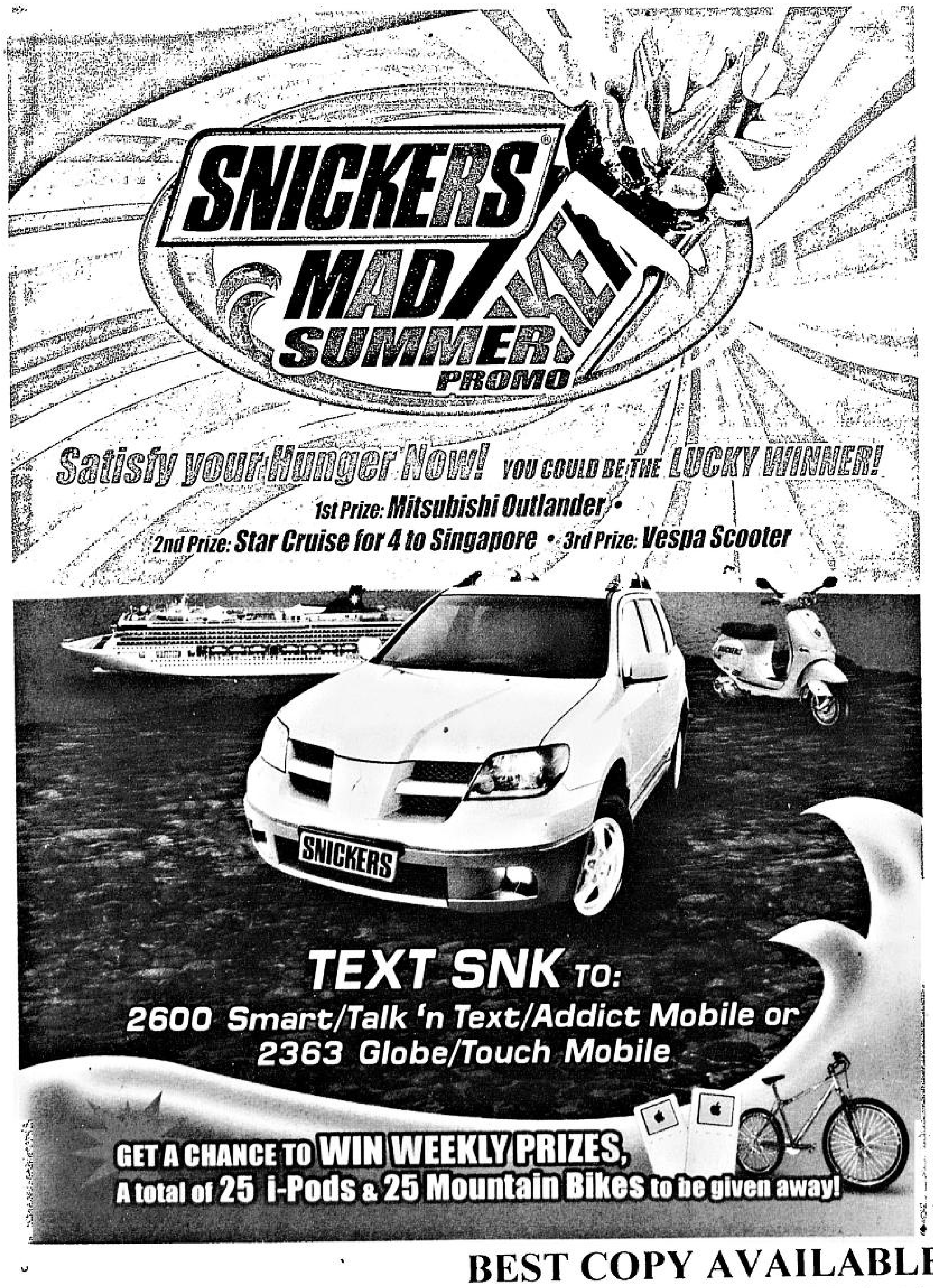
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1st Prize: Mitsubishi Outlander •
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GET A CHANCE TO WIN WEEKLY PRIZES,
A total of 25 i-Pods & 25 Mountain Bikes to be given away!

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- Smart, Talk 'n Text, Addict Mobile and Globe prepaid subscribers will be charged P2.50 per text sent. Globe post paid will be charged P2.00.
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PRIZES

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Mag-BURGER KING® na &
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₱10 Load Libre

Pwedeng e-share,
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Get ₱10 FREE Load with every purchase of any of these BK products

₱31

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- e2 BK BIG FISH™ ₱61
- e3 WHOPPER JR.™ ₱46
- e4 BK BLAZING SUPREME™ ₱31
- e5 BK CHICKEN SANDWICH™ ₱67
- e6 2 SINGLE-SERVE COKE DRINKS ₱32
- e7 2 REGULAR FRENCH FRIES ₱40
- e8 Add ICE CREAM SUNDAE to any BK Value Meal ₱25

Load na sa BURGER KING: Libre!

Promo ends May 31, 2004. See posters and leaflets for details.

• The P10 Load Transferred is valid for 24 hours • For newly acquired Smart Buddy and Talk N' Text prepaid sim, PasaLoad service is available upon first load for even as low as P30.

Globe HANDYPHONE touch mobile SMART Buddy Pre-paid TALK 'N TEXT BRIGHTPOINT Coca-Cola BURGER KING

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